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## News Release from the IULTCS

12 June, 2013

### **Celebration of Leather Industry Excellence**

During the opening ceremony of the XXXII Global IULTCS Congress on May 29<sup>th</sup> in Istanbul, the first of the previously announced dual winners of the IULTCS Merit award received her plaque from the IULTCS President, Dr. Volkan Candar. **Dr. Eleanor Brown** of the USDA Eastern Regional Research Institute in the USA has spent many years unravelling the mysteries of the collagen molecule. She led collaborative research focused on building a functional computer model to allow better understanding of the interaction of collagen with tanning agents in aqueous medium. There is still a lot to be learned about collagen and tanning, but the use of simulation models helps us understand what happens at the molecular level. In addition to protein research, Dr. Brown has contributed to practical methods for reducing environmental impact of leather processing. Over the years, Dr. Brown has contributed many publications and made numerous presentations at technical conferences.

The award to Dr. Brown provides inspiration for all scientists and researchers to strive for excellence. Her presence in Istanbul, along with a previous Merit Award winner Prof. Tony Covington of the UK along with many of the world's leading leather scientists, added richness to IULTCS proceedings. These gatherings allow researchers and technicians from around the world to interact and share ideas with recognized global leaders on a range of leather industry topics.

**Prof. Dr. Günter Reich** was unfortunately not able to travel to Istanbul, but on 6 June, a special ceremony was held in his honour during the 11<sup>th</sup> Freiberg Polymer Day in his home town Freiberg, Germany. For 26 years, Dr. Reich was the director of the FILK Institute, one of the leading research centres for the leather industry. The Award honours his life's work which spans 37 years in leather and has left a lasting impact on technological progress in this sector. His deep understanding of the basic physical and chemical aspects of collagen and the tanning process and his willingness to share has assisted many researchers and technicians in their knowledge of basic tanning mechanisms and processes. President Candar made a special trip to Freiberg to make the presentation. Dr. Stoll, the current FILK Director, and the Mayor of Freiberg were also on hand to celebrate the accomplishments of Dr. Reich.



The IULTCS Merit Award has been granted every two years by the Executive Committee of the International Union starting in 2007. President Candar stated in granting the awards: *“On behalf of our International Union, and for all leather scientists and technologists everywhere, I am honored to be able to present these awards to two people who mean so much to the leather world”*.

The Honor Roll to date includes:

2007 Dr Robert L. Sykes, UK

2009 Professor Anthony D. Covington, UK

2011 Antoni Ylla-Catalá, Spain

2013 Dr Eleanor Brown, USA & Prof. Dr. Günter Reich, Germany



*Dr. Eleanor Brown of the Eastern Regional Research Center in the USA receiving the IULTCS Merit Award Plaque from President of the IULTCS Dr. Volkan Candar. The ceremony took place during the opening of the XXXII Global IULTCS Congress in Istanbul at the end of May.*



INTERNATIONAL UNION OF LEATHER  
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*Prof. Dr. Günter Reich of Germany receives the IULTCS Merit Award Plaque at a special Ceremony in Freiberg Germany on 6 June. Shown left to right: Dr. Michael Stoll (FILK), Prof. Reich, Mr Bernd-Erwin Schramm (Mayor of Freiberg), Dr Volkan Candar (IULTCS).*

## End News Release ##

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