



Name in English: Patrick Soon-Shiong, MD

Name in Chinese: 陈颂雄 [陳頌雄]

Name in Pinyin: Chén Sòngxióng

Gender: Male

Birth Year: 1952

Birth Place: South Africa

Current location: Los Angeles, CA

Philanthropy: Yes

First Billionaire Medical Researcher, Philanthropist

Profession (s): Surgeon, Business Leader, Philanthropist

Education: Bachelor of Medicine (B.Ch.), University of Witwatersrand - South Africa; M.D., University of Witwatersrand – South Africa, 1975; Master of Science - Surgery, University of British Columbia, 1979; Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons, Royal College of Surgeons (Canada), 1983; Diplomate, American Board of Surgery, 1984; Fellow, American College of Surgeons, 1986

Awards: 2009, Leadership in Innovation Award, Adaptive Business Leaders (ABL) Organization; 2008, Medical Visionary Award, Pancreatic Cancer Auction Network; 2007, St. Mary Medical Center Life Achievement Award; 2007, St. John’s Health Center Caritas Award; 2007, Ellis Island Medal of Honor, National Ethnic Coalition (NECO); 2006, Award for the Advancement of Cancer Medicine, Gilda’s Club New York; 1994, Peter Kiewit Distinguished Membership in Medicine , Eisenhower Medical Center; 1994, International J.W. Hyatt Award for Service to Mankind, Society of Plastics Engineer; 1980, Royal College Physicians & Surgeons Canada Research Award; 1979, Association for Academic Surgery Award for Research;

Contribution (s):

During World War II, Dr. Patrick Soon-Shiong’s father (a village doctor in China) and mother fled and relocated as refugees to apartheid South Africa. Patrick Soon Shiong was an extremely bright and driven youth, graduating from high school at age 16, and earning his medical doctorate by 23. Life in South Africa was a struggle for him and his family. According to a 2003 article in Forbes Magazine, “As one of the first nonwhite surgical residents at Johannesburg’s General Hospital on staff, he earned \$1,000 a month, half the rate of his white peers. His first patient, a white Afrikaner, initially refused to let Soon-Shiong treat him.” He was recruited as Assistant Professor of Surgery at the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) in 1983 at the very young age of 31.

Dr. Soon-Shiong soon made a name for himself for conducting daring surgeries and taking on the most difficult cases. In 1986, he performed the first pancreas transplant at UCLA to treat a diabetic patient. Looking for less invasive ways of helping diabetic patients he pioneered research into transplanting just the islet cells of the pancreas that produces insulin. Previous attempts had failed as the white blood cells of the patient would quickly destroy the transplanted cells. In 1987, Dr. Soon-Shiong came up with the idea of encasing islet cells inside a microscopic protective gel casing derived from seaweed. His medical colleagues were so skeptical of his research that he left UCLA in

1991 and co-founded his own company, VivoRx, to pursue the idea of using nanoparticles in disease treatment. In 1993, he performed pioneering surgery to implant islet cells using this method after FDA approval of the experiment. Overhyped claims by the media that a cure for diabetes had been found led many in the medical profession to doubt the research. Nevertheless the patient was gradually weaned off insulin injections and went 30 full days without showing any adverse changes.

The controversy led to a change from diabetes research to cancer research. To pursue this new line of research he opened up a second company named Abraxis Bioscience. The first drug utilizing nanoparticle albumin bound (nab) technology, Abraxane, was produced in 1993. It was designed to deliver an established breast cancer fighting drug, Taxol, more effectively. To fund the expensive FDA drug trials needed for approval of the new drug application, Dr. Soon-Shiong rejected selling off shares of his business to venture capitalists or banks. Instead he relied on profits made from another business venture that he formed under Abraxis Bioscience, named American Pharmaceutical Partners (APP), which sold injectable drugs to hospitals such as heparin. He kept 83% of APP shares and 80% of American Bioscience shares for himself. Wall Street thought his business practices were insane and heavily shorted APP after it went public in 2001, betting that it would lose value. The FDA approved regular use of Abraxane in 2005 leading shares to soar in both companies. In 2007, APP was formally split from Abraxis and in July 2008, APP was sold to Fresenius, a German dialysis company, for \$5.6 billion. This sale has made Dr. Soon-Shiong the only medical researcher in the world to have become a billionaire, ranking him 87th among the richest in America, according to Forbes.

Philanthropy: Dr. Soon-Shiong and his wife created the Chan Soon-Shiong Family Foundation in 2007. \$35 million was donated to renovate St. John's Health Center in Santa Monica, California. In 2009, the center received an additional \$100 million. Dr. Soon-Shiong also promised to underwrite a \$100 million line of credit to reopen the defunct Martin Luther King, Jr.-Harbor Hospital in conjunction with the University of California and Los Angeles County. He is also donating \$1 billion towards his current efforts promoting better healthcare, and establishing what he refers to as an “information highway” to correctly share medical information and increase transparency in America’s healthcare system. The Los Angeles Times said that, “Soon-Shiong was raised in South Africa but said he owes a debt of gratitude to the U.S. ‘I may do something there too, but this is in my own backyard. This is home. I’m an American now, and I have been really blessed with opportunities here.’”

Publications/Patents: Dr. Patrick Soon-Shiong has co-invented over 50 issued US patents, and has co-authored more than 100 scientific papers and abstracts.

External Links:

<http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-king29-2009oct29,0,1826815.story>
<http://www.forbes.com/2009/08/24/healthcare-obama-reform-business-billionaires-national.html>
http://www.forbes.com/forbes/2003/1006/126_print.html
<http://www.inc5.org/cv/SoonShiongPatrickCV.pdf>
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