

For Immediate Release

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Pioneering Chemical Engineering Professor Donna Blackmond, Ph.D., Joins Snapdragon Scientific Advisory Board

WALTHAM, MA (September 7, 2021) – Snapdragon Chemistry is pleased to announce chemical engineering Professor Donna Blackmond has joined our Scientific Advisory Board. Known for her pioneering development of Reaction Progress Kinetic Analysis (RPKA), theoretical and experimental studies on the origin of biological homochirality, and many other distinguished accolades, Professor Blackmond is an elected member of the National Academy of Sciences, the National Academy of Engineering, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, a fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry and in 2019 received the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry Award for Distinguished Women in Chemistry or Chemical Engineering.

“Donna is an extremely influential and accomplished engineer who has made major contributions to our understanding of industrially important chemical processes,” said Snapdragon President/CEO Matthew Bio. “With our focus at Snapdragon on chemical technology, we are thrilled to have Donna advising us as we seek to address challenging problems in chemical manufacturing. Her expertise will be vital to continuing the cutting-edge work we do here at Snapdragon.”

Professor Blackmond is currently the John C. Martin Endowed Chair in Chemistry at the renowned Scripps Research Institute in California, where she has worked since 2010. Her most recent research involves the synthesis of complex molecules by catalytic routes.

Before joining Scripps, Professor Blackmond served as the chair in catalysis at Imperial College in London. She has also held professorships at the University of Hull (United Kingdom), Max-Planck-Institut für Kohlenforschung, and the University of Pittsburgh. In the 1990’s she worked as associate director of technical operations at Merck, where she led efforts in process understanding for the development of anti-HIV treatments known as protease inhibitors.

“Donna has been a key driving force to foster close collaboration between chemists and chemical engineers in the last 30 years. She has influenced a generation of synthetic chemists to view their chemistry and catalysis from the lens of first principles instead of empirical extrapolation,” said Snapdragon Chief Scientific Officer Eric Fang. “Snapdragon’s tremendous growth and success have been greatly attributed to the idea of close collaboration between scientists and engineers. We greatly look forward to her expertise, guidance, and insights as Snapdragon enters next phase of growth.”

Professor Blackmond has been recognized throughout her career with numerous honors including the Max-Planck Award for Outstanding Women Scientists and election to the National Academy of Engineering and the German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina.

She earned her doctorate in chemical engineering from Carnegie Mellon University in 1984 and began her career at the University of Pittsburgh as a chemical engineer.

“Whether in the lab, classroom, or company headquarters, I’ve always been driven by the way chemistry can help us solve some of the biggest challenges facing our world,” said Blackmond. “Snapdragon has shown it’s on the forefront of this work. I’m grateful to be part of the Scientific Advisory Board and excited to help Snapdragon continue to grow and innovate.”

About Snapdragon Chemistry

Snapdragon Chemistry is a chemical technology firm providing services to the pharmaceutical and fine chemical industries. Snapdragon’s headquarters, R&D, and manufacturing facilities are in Waltham, MA.