Roger Hochoon Pak
Honorary Doctor of Science
May 8, 2022

Andrews University

Roger Hochoon Pak is an Associate Research Fellow at Pfizer, Andover, Massachusetts, and a subject matter expert in biotherapeutic drug delivery technologies. He holds a BS (with Honors) in chemistry from Andrews University and a PhD in chemistry from the University of California-Los Angeles. Throughout his career in academia and in the biopharmaceutical industry, he has explored innovative chemistry and biotechnology in order to deliver bioactive molecules in the search for breakthrough therapies.

Pak is the youngest of five children to Korean emigrant parents. After the Korean War, Pak's parents immigrated to Hinsdale, Illinois, where he was born. Funding for his college tuition would have been difficult with two other siblings in college, but a well-timed scholarship from Dow Chemical Company was an answer to the family's prayers.

During his undergraduate career, Pak completed chemistry internships at Argonne National Laboratories and at the University of Notre Dame. He also completed independent chemistry projects at Andrews with professors Dwain Ford and Robert Wilkins. As a graduate student, Pak held an NIH Biotechnology Fellowship at the City of Hope National Cancer Institute. He went on to receive an NIH Postdoctoral Fellowship at the University of California-Davis, where he gained expertise with bioconjugation chemistry and radioimmunotherapy.

Following an extensive academic career, Pak held positions at Bristol Myers Squibb, Infinity Pharmaceuticals and Wyeth/Pfizer Pharmaceuticals. He worked on a variety of drug products in clinical and commercial stages and an even wider variety of drug delivery technologies.

Recently, Pak worked on the COVID-19 vaccine (Comirnaty®) from Pfizer/BioNTech, which utilized lipid nanoparticle technology to deliver mRNA. As the team lead of several multi-department matrix teams, he was responsible for the lipid chemistry, manufacturing and controls for all markets worldwide. The team's work led to FDA and EMA license approvals.

Pak participated in the investigation, development and evaluation of drug delivery technologies, including RNA/LNP delivery, antibody-drug conjugates, polymer conjugates and targeted nanoparticles used in pipeline portfolio projects. Additionally, he is experienced in leading company-wide networks. He served as co-chair of the Drug Delivery Council and chair of the Bioconjugation Network and has received multiple Individual Performance Awards from 2010–2015, as well as W.E. Upjohn Awards from 2015–2021. He was awarded the Pfizer BTxPS Impact Award in 2020.

Pak married Laurel Gwun in 1994 and they raised three children, Joshua, Andrew and Anna. Their two sons currently attend Andrews University, and their daughter is a high school senior. The Pak family attends the College Adventist Church in South Lancaster, Massachusetts, where Pak volunteers his time working on the audiovisual team. He also serves on the Andrews University Board of Trustees. For his leadership and innovative research in projects that bring positive change to society and the world, Andrews University takes great pleasure in honoring Roger Hochoon Pak with the degree Doctor of Science, *honoris causa.*