Claude Mancel, we are pleased to honor you today for your role in the research and development of products used every day by countless individuals around the world.

With a master’s degree and PhD in chemical engineering from WPI, you joined Procter & Gamble’s research and development division and eventually served as section head, associate director, and director—a position you reached in a record eight years. As vice president of research and development for Europe, the Middle East, and Africa, you developed markets for products ranging from detergents and diapers to beverages and Pringles. Your innovation of pan-European products—appealing to consumers across national boundaries—helped grow the company in Europe, the Middle East, and Africa from $1 billion to $12 billion in just 10 years. As vice president for research and development for global home care, you led the global brand development for many well-known products. One of your recent brands, Swiffer, is the fastest Procter & Gamble brand to reach $1 billion in sales.

You also served on the board and as president of the European Soap and Detergent Association. You initiated the Human and Environment Risk Assessment of Chemicals Project and conceived “The Code of Good Environmental Practices,” an industry initiative aimed at reducing consumption of per capita use of detergents, packaging weight, non-biodegradable ingredients, and energy used during the washing process. The industry reached all of its objectives and remains the only industry to voluntarily agree to reduce consumption in homes of its products. Your role in this remarkable result has been pivotal. Your many accomplishments were recognized by WPI in 1990, when you received an honorary doctorate from the university.

You are now a consultant on innovation and growth strategy. You also serve on the Scientific and Innovation Council of Rhodia, a French chemical company, and on the boards or advisory panels of several other companies. At WPI, you are a Trustee Emeritus and have assisted with student recruitment.

Claude Mancel, we are proud to present you with the Robert H. Goddard Award for Outstanding Professional Achievement.