

Trustee



## Donald Grimm

There is a symmetry to Donald Grimm's involvement with the University of California, San Diego, as it parallels a career at the forefront of biotech's coming of age. For more than two decades, Don has been involved with UC San Diego on several professional levels – with faculty, on technology transfers and business startups – and as a volunteer in an advisory role. He currently applies his insider/outsider knowledge to the UC San Diego Foundation Board's work, to the UC San Diego Moores Cancer Center Board and to a new Health System Advisory Board.

Like many San Diegans, Donald and his family were first introduced to the region through his employer, and also like many San Diegans, "I decided I would never leave again." Raised in Pittsburgh, he earned his bachelor's degree in Pharmacy at the University of Pittsburgh, returning to earn an MBA. He was hired by Eli Lilly & Company, then involved in pharmaceuticals, biotechnology and medical device businesses, where he began a 22-year span of executive roles in marketing, sales and senior management that was marked by significant accomplishments in an emerging new era for medicine. "In 1980, I was involved in the launch of Humulin, the first drug to be developed through genetic engineering," says Donald. "My final assignment was as CEO of Hybritech, a wholly owned subsidiary of Lilly focused on the development of drugs and diagnostics from a monoclonal antibody platform. We commercialized PSA, the test for prostate cancer, and grew worldwide revenues from \$50 million to \$150 million, with 1,000 employees."

Hybritech was founded by UC San Diego faculty and purchased by Lilly in 1987; the company moved Donald to San Diego to be the CEO. The Hybritech-UC San Diego working relationship would lead to other opportunities for Donald to collaborate with professors and staff, as would his highly visible position as CEO of a Fortune 500-company subsidiary. "When I came in 1987, Bill Otterson was the first person in the San Diego community to visit me, and he asked me to do two things: He told me that Lilly was going to continue to support CONNECT (of which Bill was executive director). And he told me to join the Cancer Center board. I said yes to both of them."

He is clearly proud of his tenure with CONNECT, a UC San Diego-spawned organization dedicated to taking San Diego technology and life sciences innovation to market. "Early in CONNECT's history, we did three separate surveys of the FDA's relationship with biotech companies. We hired Ernst & Young to formally survey biotechs across the nation, and we took those surveys to Congress through our San Diego representative, who was on the Commerce Committee. Congress rewrote the FDA act in part because of our surveys," says Donald, which effectively cleared many bureaucratic roadblocks, allowing biotech to flourish.

Since taking early retirement from Lilly in 1993, Donald has held executive, consulting, mentoring and board positions in many companies, including Life Technologies, Myotech, Myopoint, Egea, CellzDirect, Aegis, Angstrom and HTG Molecular. He co-founded and served on the board of the San Diego Tech Coast Angels, establishing the biotech arm of this venture group.

Don has served as Chair of the San Diego Workforce Partnership, the San Diego County Economic Advisory Board and the City of San Diego Efficiency Board. He has also served on the San Diego Children's Museum Board, the Scripps Clinic Advisory Board and the Scripps Green Cancer Center Advisory Board at Scripps Clinic. In addition to his role as trustee on the UC San Diego Foundation board, he is currently chair of the UC San Diego Moores Cancer Center Advisory Board.

"I want to be involved in things that make the world better than it is," says Donald. "I want to get the best value for the world out of the resources that we have at UCSD. How we use those resources, and how we use them sooner rather than later – those are things that I want to impact."