

Richard E. Musty, Ph.D. - 2010 ICRS Career Achievement Award

Richard (Rik) E. Musty, Ph.D., received the ICRS Career Achievement Award for his many academic, research and leadership endeavors in support of cannabinoid research and the ICRS. Rik was born in the USA, received his B.A. from Carleton College in 1964, and his Ph.D. from McGill University in Montreal, Canada, in 1968. He joined the Department of Psychology at the University of Vermont in 1968, where he has recently been named Professor Emeritus. He was a Visiting Professor at the University of Arizona in 1981 and at the Departamento de Psicobiologia, Escola Paulista de Medicina, Sao Paulo, Brazil, between 1973 and 74, and again in 1975. Rik's efforts have always been focused on teaching and research related to the physiological effects of drugs, with a heavy emphasis on cannabinoids, both in humans and laboratory animals. His human studies started in the 1970s comparing the effects of THC with cannabinal, and THC with alcohol, upon physiological parameters such as pain, time perception, emotion, cognition and sociability. Rik continued his work in the 1990s studying the "amotivational syndrome", with the discovery that this behavior was associated with clinically depressed subjects. His publications include over 80 articles on the effects of cannabinoids in both humans and laboratory animals, and more than 20 on animal models of hyperactivity, alcohol use in humans, and in behavioral neuroscience. Over his illustrious career, he mentored more than 30 students who received their Master's or Doctoral degree, and served as a member of numerous other thesis and dissertation committees. He served as the Chair of the Psychology Department at the University of Vermont for twelve years, the longest term as Chair of the Department. He has been the recipient of more than 20 grants and research contracts, and participated in congressional presentations and scientific societies, all of them in psychological and psychiatric disorders, and most of them in the field of cannabinoid research. His outstanding work in cannabinoids often focused on therapeutic applications, and contributed to the development of two new drugs, one for neuropathic pain and one for weight loss in obesity.



Rik had a key role in the formation and success of the ICRS. It is reasonable to say that he experienced and embodies much of the history of the ICRS. He was involved in the organization of the pioneer meetings in Australia and Greece, and collaborated with Billy Martin in the organization of the cannabinoid workshops in Richmond for many years. These meetings represented the foundation on which the ICRS has grown, and Rik not only served as a founding member, but served as a Treasurer and as Executive Director of the ICRS for many years. As former ICRS presidents, we have collaborated with Rik for many years, and we feel absolutely grateful for the wonderful experiences we shared with him. Of course, this is the consequence not only of his capabilities; it is the result of his superior human qualities. Enjoy your award, Rik, you really deserve it.

Dale G. Deutsch (Stony Brook, NY, USA)

Javier Fernández-Ruiz (Madrid, Spain)

