DAVID LAPRÉ, you exemplify the WPI aspiration of making a difference in the world through engineering, science and technology. We honor you today for your distinguished career as a leader in the pharmaceutical industry.

After earning your degree in engineering and life sciences, you joined Procter & Gamble, beginning your career as a process engineer. You went on to hold positions of increasing responsibility in operations, supply chain, and general management at P&G and other consumer products companies.

In 1997 you joined Roche—a leader in healthcare with combined strengths in pharmaceuticals and diagnostics, the world’s largest biotech company, and the world leader in in-vitro diagnostics—and you have been on the move ever since. Starting as vice president of materials management for the Pharmaceuticals division in the United States, you moved to Basel, Switzerland, Roche’s headquarters, in 2002 where you successfully led a major supply chain initiative and subsequently became head of Global Supply Chain. You relocated to the U.S. in 2007 to head Technical Operations for North America. After a special assignment as program leader for the Roche-Genentech integration, you moved to the Diagnostics division to run Global Operations in 2010. You moved back to Switzerland in 2013 to assume your current role heading Pharma Global Technical Operations.

Your work impacts lives around the world. For example, in your Global Supply Chain role you led the 'Tamiflu' pandemic supply task force that rapidly ramped up production to help the world prepare for a potential H5N1 avian influenza outbreak. Your work with the World Health Organization and across national and corporate boundaries has become a case study of collaboration in response to a public health crisis. In your current role you lead a global organization tasked with ensuring the availability of Roche drugs worldwide. This involves activities ranging from the scale-up of production processes for new molecules from lab to commercial scale; manufacturing; and ultimately to the delivery of life changing medicines around the world.

WPI benefits from your knowledge and experience through your work on the Life Sciences Advisory Board, your active sponsorship of undergraduate projects, and most recently your support of WPI’s project activities in Zurich.

David LaPré, your global leadership in the pharmaceutical industry impacts communities around the world and brings pride and distinction to your alma mater. The WPI Alumni Association is pleased to recognize you today with the Robert H. Goddard Award for Outstanding Professional Achievement.

May 31, 2014

President, WPI Alumni Association