



**Robert A. Holton, Ph.D.**, is the Chief Scientific Officer, a member of the Board of Directors and co-founder of Taxolog, Inc., as well as President and founder of MDS Research Foundation and Syncure, Inc. He has been a member of the chemistry faculty at Florida State University since 1985, where he is currently the Matthew Suffness Professor. With combined experience in research and education, Dr. Holton has guided Taxolog into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Dr. Holton's emphasis in research lies in synthesis of complex organic molecules.

Dr. Holton began his undergraduate education in chemistry at the University of North Carolina. In 1971, he received his Ph.D. degree in chemistry from Florida State University. Subsequently, Dr. Holton was a Postdoctoral Research Associate at Stanford University. From 1973 to 1978, he was an Assistant Professor of Chemistry at Purdue University. He was then Associate Professor of Chemistry at Virginia Tech until 1985, when he came back to his roots at Florida State University and continues to teach there as a professor of chemistry today.

Dr. Holton's research group has accomplished the total synthesis of several natural products. Most notable are prostaglandin F<sub>2a</sub>, narwedine, aphidicolin, taxusin, Taxol<sup>®</sup> and hemibrevitoxin B.

For over 20 years, the taxane natural products, including taxol, the potent anti-cancer agent, have been a major focus of his research group. This work has led to more than 60 issued patents and patent applications, protecting in excess of one billion taxol analogs. Several of these patents, involving the semisynthesis of Taxol, have been licensed by the pharmaceutical industry for the commercial manufacture of this anti-tumor agent.