



**DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI CIRCLE AWARD RECIPIENT**



## **SOKHOM S. PIN '92, Ph.D.**

***Head of In-Vitro Neuropharmacology  
Alkermes Inc.***

As head of in-vitro neuropharmacology at Alkermes Inc. in Waltham, Mass., Sokhom S. Pin '92 leads a group of scientists in discovering new therapeutic molecules to treat diseases of the central nervous system.

After graduating from La Roche College with a biology degree, Dr. Pin earned his master's degree from Johns Hopkins University in 1997. Ten years later he earned his

Ph.D. from the University of Connecticut while working full time and providing a single income to support his family with three children. After completing a doctoral degree in pharmaceutical sciences, he slowly transformed into a leader in the field, using his knowledge and experience in drug discovery to help launch the careers of other scientists and to bring new medicine to patients.

"My greatest professional accomplishment is collectively my ability to overcome challenges and obstacles, my ambition to help bring new medicine to patients, and my desire to continue to learn and mentor others," he said.

Dr. Pin began his scientific career two years after graduating from La Roche. He worked for four years in cancer research at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, and for two years at DuPoint Pharmaceuticals (later acquired by the Bristol-Myers Squibb Company). Prior to joining his current company, Dr. Pin spent eight years as a research scientist at the Neuroscience Department of the Bristol-Myers Squibb Company, and eight years as a research scientist at the Novartis Institutes for Biomedical Research. During this time he was able to publish more than 30 research articles and abstracts in peer-reviewed scientific journals.

In addition to his professional accomplishments, Dr. Pin has educated and coached children in a variety of disciplines including drawing, painting, science and soccer. As a genocide survivor of Khmer Rouge, he was frequently invited as a guest speaker to educate high school students about the world of genocide.

"I always wanted to be a doctor, and the support I received from La Roche helped me to overcome my many challenges and increase my self-confidence," Dr. Pin said. "From my experience at La Roche, I learned that I could get as far as I wanted, as long as I continued to learn."

