'Giving Back' Informs Leader's Inspired Work Ethic

Vivek Sharma was, according to the judging panel, the perfect choice to win the CEO Of the Year award because his "vision and leadership has been the driving force" behind the remarkable growth of the Piramal Healthcare group.

The Indian-born CEO, who is the first recipient of this new CPhI award category hosted in partnership with PharmaBoard Room, admitted that he was surprised and humbled by being selected as a recipient at the CPhI Pharma Awards celebration Tuesday. Deflecting kudos, Sharma prefers to lavish praise on his company's employees.

"I like to get my hands dirty and really get into the details and I like to change things for the better. I like to improve things and I like to see the impact and that's what the opportunity here is. So, even though I'm not (from a) health care (background), I learn from all the employees who are experts in health care. I tell every employee that my job is to make everybody else successful—that's the only job I have. They are the experts, I'm there to help them succeed," Sharma said.

When he joined the Piramal Group in 2011 to lead its critical care business, he stepped aside from his comfort zone background in finance. As a licensed CPA with a Masters degree in International Business from Thunderbird School of Management, Sharma was with THL Partners, the Boston-based global private equity firm with more than $17B of assets under management. As THL's managing director, he was tasked with value creation among several THL portfolio companies. Sharma has held leadership positions in finance and operations at AMD and Motorola.

Sharma decided on a career switch because he wanted to make a difference in people's lives.

"A lot of good things to have happened to me in my life, but I also believe that I have a responsibility to give back to society in whatever (way) we can. The more human lives you can save, or the cures that you can provide to people, is one of the most noble things that you can do. And that's what inspires me," he said. "There are very few industries or very few opportunities that have a direct impact on human life and I'm really blessed that I (have that) opportunity."

Under Sharma's leadership, Piramal has established itself as the partner of choice for both large pharma and biotech firms. A razor focus on quality, reliability, and customer centricity has resulted in Piramal being voted in the global top 10 percent CMOs for 2014 and 2015.

Timely investments in rapidly growing segments like Antibody Drug Conjugate (ADC), manufacturing, and hormonals to meet market demand have fueled the company's success. Most recently, Sharma spearheaded Piramal's acquisition of Kentucky-based Coldstream Laboratories transforming Piramal Pharma Solutions into a full service sterile CDMO.

Sharma tells his employees that the work they do is vital because they're not only in the business of making money, but also in the business of saving lives.

"We tell every employee that every time you step your foot in the company, you are doing the job to save somebody's life. You could be in finance, HR, supply chain, manufacturing, or R&D, but whatever you're doing, if you do it effectively, efficiently, and do the right thing the first time right you're really helping save human lives," Sharma said.

C&EN to Deliver New Design, More Content

Chemical & Engineering News, the weekly news magazine published by the American Chemical Society, is undergoing many changes. Over the past year, *C&EN* launched initiatives such as "The Talented 12," recognizing the talent of 12 outstanding young chemists whose work is helping make the world a better place, and the email digest with a user-friendly format that delivers news highlights directly to inboxes, according to editor-in-chief Bibiana Campos Seijo.

To enhance its global footprint, the magazine is producing more international content—including coverage such as the sad news of the accident in Tianjing and a piece looking back at how Singapore developed its chemical enterprise to coincide with the celebration of 50 years of the country's independence.

Additionally, translations of some of the most compelling stories into Spanish, in coll aboration with Spanish organization Divulgame.org, have been compiled into a landing site that can be found on the website.

Guest editorials and the launch of Perspectives, a series of pieces that will explore issues affecting the chemistry enterprise, will shine a light on aspects of science that are worth celebrating, as well as parts that need to be adjusted, repaired, or thrown away altogether, she said.

Looking forward to 2016, a packed editorial calendar will be supplemented with a number of activities such as the virtual symposium, the webinar program, application notes, and *Speaking of Chemistry* videos.

But perhaps the most exciting upcoming event will be the launch of the redesigned magazine in the Spring of 2016—to be distinguished by new fonts and a new approach to layouts as well as a number of editorial changes.

Innovation *from page* **4**

by the pharmaceutical community, physicians, and patients as effective dosage forms for the oral delivery of drugs.

Currently the majority of softgels are produced using gelatin as the shell-forming polymer. In recent years, a novel and innovative alternative to gelatin has been developed based on plant polysaccharides, starch, and carrageenan.

"Our soft gel delivery system makes it easier for the API to enter the patient's digestive system, easing the procedure for both patient and physician," explained Elliot Berger, VP, Global Marketing & Strategy, Catalent, winner for Best Innovation in Process and Formulation Development.

"What impresses me most," Oudejans told the awards gathering, "are the innovative contributions that all the nominated companies are making in improving pharmaceutical processes, enhancing quality and pushing new boundaries. On behalf of CPhI Worldwide and UBM EMEA, I would like to commend all of the finalists and offer my warmest congratulations to this year's worthy winners."