

# AOAC INTERNATIONAL Member

## Barry V. McCleary

A self-described workaholic — and long-time bush walker — **Barry V. McCleary** will be the first to tell you that he gets immense pleasure from his work.

A cereal chemist with particular interest in enzymes and carbohydrates, McCleary received his Ph.D. in Agricultural Chemistry from the University of Sydney, Australia, in 1975 and, after graduating, became a Scientific Officer in the New South Wales Department of Agriculture. While there, he identified, in an indigenous fern, a toxicant that was responsible for massive sheep losses and helped devise a field solution. The toxicant was also linked to historical accounts of the deaths of early Australian explorers, and Dr. McCleary's work was televised and received coverage in *Nature* and *Natural Geographic*.

Barry V. McCleary, Ph.D. pictured with his daughter Lisa.

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While steadily moving up the ranks at NSW Agriculture in the 1980s, McCleary recognized the need for improved analytical methodology involving cereal polysaccharides; he subsequently developed AOAC® *Official Method* 995.16, which measured B-glucan in cereal products. He also developed methods for determining total starch (AOAC® *Official Method* 996.11), starch damage (AACC *Method* 76-31), and currently has a method under inter-laboratory evaluation to ascertain levels of amylose/amylopectin in cereal.

Methods in enzyme measurement are also a primary research focus of Dr. McCleary's. This interest has led to the development of enzyme products marketed by his own biotechnology company, Megazyme International.

Since its 1988 launch in the McCleary garage, Megazyme International has thrived, and, in 1993, won two coveted Australian small business awards. In 1996 Megazyme, along with the McCleary

family, relocated to Ireland. This May the company will host in Dublin a joint ICC/AOAC INTERNATIONAL conference, "Dietary Fibre-2000; Processing, Milling and Nutritional Effects."

Barry McCleary is a recipient of Fulbright Foundation and Nuffield Foundation Scholarships, and in 1994 was awarded the F. B. Guthrie Medal for "contributions to cereal chemistry in Australia in the broadest sense" by the Royal Australian Chemical Institute. This year, he is a nominated candidate for the International Director of the American Association of Cereal Chemists.

The father of five children, McCleary takes walks and bicycles with his younger children and gardens in his spare time.

Of his luminous career Dr. McCleary says, "I am in the very fortunate position that my job is my hobby. To achieve this, I have had to make some rather rash decisions throughout my life, like giving up a secure job to pursue a dream in a garage . . . . I feel sorry for others who don't get the same joy out of their chosen profession." Barry V. McCleary is clearly a man who has chosen the right path, and the AOAC community reaps the benefits.

