

Katrina Cornish, Ph.D.
Research & Development, Yulex Corporation

Dr. Katrina Cornish is the leading U.S. scientific expert and is internationally recognized as a principal authority on guayule, guayule latex production, and on natural rubber biosynthesis in general. As Senior Vice President, Research & Development at Yulex, Dr. Cornish oversees the company's ongoing research, development, production, validation and regulatory programs for the commercialization of guayule latex for safe medical devices and specialty consumer products. Prior to joining Yulex in 2004, Dr. Cornish led the USDA's development of domestic natural rubber and rubber latex sources for more than 15 years. Dr. Cornish is the sole inventor of process and product patents to produce safe natural rubber latex and products from guayule. She began working closely with Yulex in 1997, when the company first licensed her discoveries from the USDA. She has over 120 publications and patents (not including abstracts), of which more than 95 are related to rubber biosynthesis and production. Amongst her numerous awards, her guayule latex development was recognized by the Connect 2005 Most Innovative New Product Award, to Yulex for Yulex™ latex in the Category Life Sciences – Medical Devices & Diagnostics. In 2004, Cornish received the Good Housekeeping Award for Women in Government in recognition of her inspired leadership and proving that good government can change our lives. In 2002, she was elected a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and won a presidential award from the American Chemical Society. In 1998, she was honored with the USDA's Scientist of the Year Award for Outstanding Senior Research Scientist. In 1997, she was recognized by the Agricultural University of Antonio Narro, Mexico for guayule research.

Dr. Cornish received a first class honors degree in biological sciences and a Ph.D. in plant biology from the University of Birmingham, England.