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**WARREN CENTER**  
FOR NEUROSCIENCE DRUG DISCOVERY  
at Vanderbilt University

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The Warren Center for Neuroscience Drug Discovery (WCNDD) is a clinical-stage Biotech nestled within Vanderbilt University. We are excited to implement a way to share the meaningful work we do through the WCNDD newsletter. This newsletter will be published six times a year, every other month. The purpose of this newsletter is to provide information on current projects, outreach efforts, and research progress. We are revamping our social media outlets and webpages to engage and connect with those invested in the work we do. There are so many exciting things happening daily at the WCNDD and our partner labs. Be sure to subscribe to this newsletter, add us on Twitter, Instagram, and LinkedIn so you can stay connected with our work and progress.

The mission of the WCNDD is to translate advances in basic science to novel therapeutics by de-risking innovative approaches for the treatment of serious brain disorders. WCNDD extends traditional academic pursuits in basic science to take the most exciting advances in our understanding of human disease and drug targets to a



point where these breakthroughs can directly impact patient care. We strive to build collaborations with precision neuroscience companies to continue development of investigational treatment for neuropsychiatric disorders. The work we do is making a difference now and for future advances in modern medicine.

## Areas of Focus

Alzheimer's  
Disease

Schizophrenia

Parkinson's  
Disease

## Introduction to Discovery Teams

Discovery Teams	Objectives
<b>Medicinal Chemistry</b>	Development of small molecule in vitro probes, in vivo tool compounds and IND-ready preclinical candidates through high-throughput, iterative medicinal chemistry.
<b>Molecular Pharmacology</b>	Provide primary screening, assay development, high-throughput screening (HTS) and detailed in vitro pharmacological analysis of small molecule ligands.
<b>Drug Metabolism and Pharmacokinetics</b>	Provide in vitro and in vivo absorption, distribution, metabolism, and excretion (ADME) characterization of small molecule ligands including projected human dosing and drug-drug interaction liabilities.
<b>Behavioral Pharmacology</b>	Provide pharmacological characterization of small molecule ligands in established preclinical models of central nervous system (CNS) disorders including schizophrenia (Sz), Parkinson's Disease (PD), dystonia, and Alzheimer's Disease (AD)

## Advocacy and Outreach

The WCNDD has pioneered a community outreach program to educate children and teens on how to build healthy brain connections and compassionate minds as a means of substance use and mental illness prevention. This program includes an educational website and documentary titled "Speaking Through Me" for middle/high school-aged children and their parents. The outreach program was established after the heartbreaking loss of Kristen Gilliland's (WCNDD Director of Outreach and Advocacy Programs) 22-year old son to an accidental drug overdose in 2019. Earlier, her son was diagnosed with schizophrenia - most likely brought on by the ingestion of high-THC potency cannabis. His addiction to heroin and cocaine developed after his mental health spiraled out of control. Kristen has a sincere passion for sharing her son's story to prevent this heartbreaking tragedy from happening to other families.

**Kristen has presented the program throughout Middle Tennessee with great success to:**

- ◆ Metro Nashville Public School's First Time Drug Offender Program (each month), Dickson County's Overdose Awareness Events
- ◆ Dickson Celebrate Recovery
- ◆ Williamson and Wilson County's Anti-Drug Coalition Events
- ◆ University School Nashville and Battle Ground Academy (both students and parents)



This month, Kristen will partner with Williamson County's Health Department and Anti-Drug Coalition to create awareness about substance use and substance use disorder by participating in a filmed interview/Public Service Announcement led by actor Jason Wahler. In April, Kristen will also present the outreach program at the "Rx and Illicit Drug Summit" in Atlanta - the largest conference in the U.S. addressing the overdose crisis. If you would like to learn more about the program contact Kristen Gilliland ([kristen.gilliland@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:kristen.gilliland@vanderbilt.edu)).