



VANDERBILT  
School of Medicine  
Basic Sciences

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

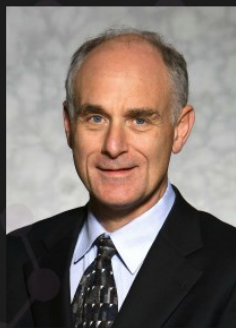
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JUNE 2023

We are excited to announce that the Warren Center for Neuroscience Drug Discovery (WCNDD) is spearheading this first in class Drug Discovery Lecture Series in the Fall of 2023 at Vanderbilt University. This unique speaking opportunity will bring the most thoughtful leaders in various fields of drug discovery to the center and the campus. Invited speakers are nominated by the WCNDD Leadership Team and are recognized for their work in drug discovery, experiences in academia or industry, unique case studies, and strategies in drug development.

**WARREN CENTER LECTURE SERIES**

2023 - 2024



**Nicholas A. Meanwell Ph.D.**

Sci, CChem, FRSC, ACSF

Join us at the inaugural Warren Center Lecture Series:  
September 27th | 2:00 - 4:00pm | Light Hall 214



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Recently confirmed, our Distinguished Lecturer for the launch of the Warren Center Lecture Series is Dr. Nicholas A. Meanwell, Ph.D. Dr. Meanwell joined Bristol Myers Squibb in 1982 and retired in 2022 after having led drug discovery programs in the cardiovascular, neurosciences and virology therapeutic areas, work that resulted in the advancement of 33 clinical candidates. Nick and his team were involved in the design and development of flindokalner (MaxiPost®) (P3 for the treatment of stroke), the HIV-1 attachment inhibitor fostemsavir (Rukobia™), the HIV-1 maturation inhibitors BMS-955176, fipravirimat and zegruvirimat, the HCV NS5A inhibitor daclatasvir (Daklinza™), the HCV NS3 protease inhibitors BMS-605339 and asunaprevir (Sunvepra™), and the HCV NS5B inhibitor beclabuvir, marketed as Xymency™, a fixed dose combination with daclatasvir and asunaprevir. To learn more about Nick and the many successes in drug discovery, please save the date for **Wednesday, September 27th** and join us on campus!

**WCNDD Mission**

*"To translate advances in basic science to novel therapeutics by de-risking innovative approaches for the treatment of serious brain disorders."*

Research

Community  
Outreach

Education

## Advocacy and Outreach

Our Community Outreach Director, Dr. Kristen Gilliland, is excited to welcome Dr. Morgan Crowley to our Community and Educational Outreach Program! Dr. Crowley earned her Ph.D. in Medicinal Chemistry from the University of Florida in 2022. Her dissertation involved identifying a dual acting mu opioid receptor and alpha-2A adrenergic compound for the treatment of opioid use disorder. Morgan has been working as a postdoctoral research scholar pursuing novel agents targeting the metabotropic glutamate receptors. We are thrilled now to utilize her expertise on opioid use disorder and medicinal chemistry as it pertains to our Community and Educational Outreach Programs, respectively.



The educational short form documentary “Speaking Through Me” is done! There will be a screening premiere followed by a guest panel at the Franklin Theater on August 15 (7-9 pm). Filming for short teaching videos begins this month. This month we will film “The Adolescent Brain”. These short videos will be uploaded to our outreach webpage for adolescents to learn about their developing brain and how amazing it is. Kristen will also present about cannabis and the adolescent brain to the Prevention Coalition for Success in Murfreesboro and to the Tennessee Juvenile Court Services Association in Franklin. Later in the month, she will present segments of the documentary to addiction medicine physicians in Minnesota as part of the SOAR ECHO Lecture Series funded by the NIH.

In late July, the Educational Outreach Team will begin filming for an Online Drug Discovery Certificate Program available through the WCNDD and Vanderbilt Basic Sciences in July of 2024. The online Certificate Program will feature seven online courses in drug discovery and development presented and taught by experts here at the WCNDD, including Professor Craig Lindsley.



**In the Spotlight:** Our very own Senior Director of In Vivo Pharmacology and Drug Development, Carrie K. Jones, was named Teacher of the Year in the Department of Pharmacology at Vanderbilt University School of Medicine, Basic Sciences. Dr. Jones joined the Warren Center for Neuroscience Drug Discovery in 2005. Jones is a highly trained in vivo neuropharmacologist and neuroscientist. Her lab is located on Vanderbilt University Campus. Congratulations Carrie!

### We are excited to announce new publications from April and May 2023!

Differential activity of orthosteric agonists and allosteric modulators at metabotropic glutamate receptor 7, Molecular Pharmacology, by Lei X, Hofmann C, Rodriguez AL, and Niswender CM.

“M1-selective muscarinic allosteric modulation enhances cognitive flexibility and effective salience in nonhuman primates”, PubMed, by Hassani SA, Neumann A, Russell J, Jones CK, Womelsdorf T.

“Alkylation of NH-sulfoximines under Mitsunobu-type conditions”, PubMed, by Dodd CJ, Schultz DC, Li J, Lindsley CW, Bender AM.

“Pharmacological hallmarks of allostery at the M4 muscarinic receptor elucidated through structure and dynamics”, PubMed, by Vuckovic Z, Wang J, Pham V, Mobbs JI, Belousoff MJ, Bhattarai A, Burger WAC, Thompson G, Yeasmin M, Nawaratne V, Leach K, van der Westhuizen ET, Khajehali E, Liang YL, Glukhova A, Wootten D, Lindsley CW, Tobin A, Sexton P, Danev R, Valant C, Miao Y, Christopoulos A, Thal DM.