

DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE
SEMINAR SERIES
Spring 2020

DATE: FEBRUARY 12, 2020

LOCATION: TIERNAN HALL LECTURE 1

TIME: 1:00-2:20 PM

GUEST SPEAKER

Peter T. Meinke, Ph. D.

Sanders Director, Tri-Institutional Therapeutics Discovery Institute
New York, NY

TOPIC

Transforming Academic Drug Discovery in NYC: Applying Lessons Learned from the
Discovery of Elbasvir for the Treatment of HCV

ABSTRACT

The discovery of elbasvir for the treatment hepatitis virus C (HCV) will be presented, starting from initial screening leads to final development compound. Lessons learned during these discovery efforts are being applied to transform academic drug discovery in NYC at the Tri-Institutional Therapeutics Discovery Institute (TDI, www.tritdi.org). TDI's mission is to encourage our Tri-Institutional (Tri-I) community, made up of Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, The Rockefeller University and Weill Cornell Medicine, to advance their groundbreaking biological discoveries to preclinical studies. TDI provides industrial-scale technical support for academic projects, making it possible to rapidly assess the utility of specific therapeutic targets in disease-relevant contexts. A TDI case study showing the development of novel inhibitors for a rare ocular disease, hypotony, will be presented.

BIO

Dr. Peter T. Meinke has extensive experience in all stages of drug discovery from target validation through early clinical development. Programs under Peter's direct supervision produced one drug (NS5A inhibitor elbasvir for hepatitis C for which he was recognized with the ACS Heroes of Chemistry award in 2017) plus 13 development compounds that advanced into the clinic in seven distinct therapeutic areas. In addition, Peter has significant international experience and, from 2008-2016, focused on working and living overseas (Shanghai, China) to direct and mentor drug discovery research teams globally while managing the attendant business issues.

Peter currently is Sanders Director at the Tri-Institutional Therapeutics Discovery Institute (appointed May 2018) and also is Assistant Professor, Pharmacology, at Weill Cornell Medicine. Following his retirement from Merck Research Laboratories in 2016, Peter held joint appointments at the Tri-Institutional Therapeutics Discovery Institute (VP, Preclinical Development) and at Bridge Medicines (VP, Chemistry), both from Jan-2017 – May-2018.

Peter previously held the title of Executive Director, Discovery Chemistry at Merck. He joined Merck in 1989 following undergraduate (Eckerd College, FL, 1978-1982), doctoral (Syracuse

University, NY, G. A. Krafft, 1982-1987) and post-doctoral (Columbia University, NY, W. Clark Still, 1987-1989) education. He is co-author on over 90 publications in peer reviewed journals and co-inventor on more than 35 patents.

Committee members:

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