

Symposium 2: The Yin and Yang of Novel Receptor Drug Discovery Paradigms

Prof Alastair Stewart, The University of Melbourne



Alastair Stewart is a Professor of Pharmacology at the University of Melbourne with extensive experience in the field of respiratory and inflammation research. He has served on numerous peer review committees for NHMRC and the scientific advisory boards of several Australian Medical Research Institutes. His research interests focus on tissue remodelling in asthma and novel drugs targeting tissue remodelling in inflammation. His long-term interest in steroid pharmacology has also encompassed several studies in tumour biology. He is currently focussed on elucidating determinants of steroid sensitivity. His laboratory has a strong track record of Graduate Research training and he maintains wide interests in education, research, research training and research support structures.

Prof Andrew Tobin, University of Leicester, UK



Professor Andrew Tobin is a programme group leader at the Medical Research Council Toxicology Unit at Leicester in the UK. He has for many years studied G-protein coupled receptor signalling in particular the role of receptor phosphorylation. Recently his research has focused on addressing the link between in vitro pharmacology and signal transduction with in vivo animal behaviour. Andrew also has an appointment with the University of Leicester where he is the Director of the Centre for Translational Research. In this role he evaluates and supports translational projects from across the University. This includes cancer and cardiovascular programmes as well as his own malaria research programme.

Dr Laura Bohn, The Scripps Research Institute, Florida, USA



Laura Bohn, Ph.D. investigates drug actions at GPCRs, which play critical roles in how patients respond to various therapeutics, including the opioid analgesics and antipsychotic agents. Dr. Bohn received post-doctoral training at HHMI/Duke University Medical Center with Drs. Marc Caron and Robert Lefkowitz and was Pharmacology faculty at The Ohio State University. She is currently at the Scripps Research Institute in Jupiter, Florida where she is pursuing new therapies for the treatment of pain. Laura has received the SFN Career Development Award, the Joseph Cochin Young Investigator Award from CPDD and the John J. Abel Award in Pharmacology from ASPET/Pfizer.

Denise Wootten, Monash University



Dr. Denise Wootten is a Research Fellow in the Drug Discovery Biology Theme, Monash Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Monash University, Victoria, Australia. She completed a PhD in 2008 at the University of Birmingham in the UK under the supervision of Professor Mark Wheatley where she focused on structure and function of peptide hormone receptors for the neurohypophysial hormones, vasopressin and oxytocin. She then took up a postdoctoral position in molecular pharmacology with Professors and Patrick M. Sexton and Arthur Christopoulos, at Monash University, Melbourne. Her expertise is in the study of G protein coupled receptors (GPCRs), particularly the family B subclass of GPCRs and the principal interest of her research is towards understanding the modes of their regulation in an effort to identify novel approaches for drug discovery. Her research interests encompass differential signalling, interaction of receptors with regulatory accessory proteins, allosterism and the structure and mechanism by which these GPCRs are activated. She is an author of 18 scientific articles, 2 book chapters and is a reviewer of four international journals.