

SYMPOSIUM SPEAKERS' BIOGRAPHIES



KARIN BRINER, PHD

Vice President and Global Head
Global Discovery Chemistry (GDC)
Novartis Institutes for BioMedical Research (NIBR)
Cambridge, MA

Dr. Briner joined Novartis as Global Head of GDC in June 2011. She is a member of the senior leadership team of NIBR and has responsibilities for discovery chemistry research across all disease areas; this includes research groups in Cambridge MA, Basel Switzerland, Emeryville CA, and Shanghai.

Dr. Briner obtained her BSc in chemistry and biochemistry and her PhD in organic chemistry from the University of Zurich (Switzerland), where she worked with Professor Andrea Vasella during her graduate research. She did NSF and NIH postdoctoral studies with Professor William Roush at Indiana University.

From 1995 to 2011, Dr. Briner was at Eli Lilly & Co. (Indianapolis), where she started as Senior Organic Chemist in Infectious Diseases research, and then led projects in Neuroscience and Endocrine Research. From 2000 to 2010, she was part of the Discovery Chemistry management team with responsibilities as medicinal chemistry director in Neuroscience and Endocrine Research and later as executive director of Lead Optimization chemistry. Throughout this time, she maintained her own chemistry laboratory contributing new projects to the research portfolio and delivered several molecules to the clinic. From 2007 to 2010, Dr. Briner was managing director of the Lilly Research Centre, Windlesham UK, and was a member of the board of Eli Lilly and Co., Ltd, Lilly's UK company. In 2010, she returned to Indianapolis and led the Translational Sciences and Technologies department with responsibilities for biomarker discovery research across all therapeutic areas, and for structural biology and *in vitro* screening.

Dr. Briner is very active in the broader Medicinal Chemistry community. She is a member of the Scientific Advisory Board of the European Federation of Medicinal Chemistry. This year she's co-chair of the EFMC-ASMC meeting in Vienna. Previously, she had participated in starting the Innovative Medicines Initiative as a member of efpi's Research Directors Group.



RAYMOND MOELLERING, PHD

Assistant Professor
Department of Chemistry
The University of Chicago
Chicago, IL

Dr. Moellering is an Assistant Professor of Chemistry at the University of Chicago. He obtained Bachelor's degrees in Chemistry and Biochemistry & Molecular Biophysics from the University of Arizona, he received his PhD in Chemistry and Chemical Biology from Harvard University, and he was a Damon Runyon Postdoctoral Fellow at The Scripps Research Institute prior to starting his independent career at the University of Chicago in 2015.

Dr. Moellering has published articles in a variety of peer-reviewed journals including *Nature*, *Science*, *PNAS*, and *Chemistry & Biology*. This work has been recognized with numerous awards, including the Dale F. Frey Award for Breakthrough Scientists from the Damon Runyon Cancer Research Foundation, the Pathway to Independence Award from the National Cancer Institute, the V Scholar Award from the V Foundation for Cancer Research and the NIH Director's New Innovator Award.

Dr. Moellering's research lies at the interface of chemistry and biology, with an eye towards understanding and intervening in human disease. By integrating chemical synthesis and novel proteomic platforms, his research aims to identify novel biological mechanisms underlying metabolic diseases such as diabetes and cancer, and to subsequently develop innovative diagnostic and therapeutic modalities to treat these disorders.

VICTORIA M. RICHON, PHD

President and Chief Executive Officer
Ribon Therapeutics
Lexington, MA



Dr. Richon is currently the President and CEO at Ribon Therapeutics, Inc. Ribon is a biotechnology company focused on the discovery of new cancer medicines by developing monoPARP (mono ADP-ribose polymerase) inhibitors to block cancer cells' ability to survive under stress.

Prior to joining Ribon in November 2015, Dr. Richon was the Vice President and Global Head of Oncology Drug Discovery and Translational Medicine at Sanofi.

Prior to Sanofi (2008-2012), Dr. Richon was Vice President of Biological Sciences at Epizyme, Inc. Epizyme is focused on the discovery and development of small molecule histone methyltransferase (HMT) inhibitors. Epizyme has discovered and developed two first in class agents, including the EZH2 inhibitor that is currently in late stage clinical development.

Before joining Epizyme, Dr. Richon headed up the department of Cancer Biology and Therapeutics at Merck & Co., Inc.

Prior to Merck, Dr. Richon was a member of the scientific group at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center that discovered the histone deacetylase inhibitor vorinostat. This discovery was the basis of Aton Pharma, Inc., a company that Dr. Richon co-founded and served as Executive Director. Aton Pharma was acquired by Merck in 2004 and Victoria continued supporting vorinostat through its approval by the US FDA in October 2006. Vorinostat was the first histone deacetylase inhibitor approved for the treatment of cancer.

BRIAN SHOICHET, PHD

Professor
Department of Pharmaceutical Chemistry
School of Pharmacy
University of California, San Francisco
San Francisco, CA



Dr. Shoichet received a B.Sc. in Chemistry and a B.Sc. in History in 1985, from MIT. MIT appears to have no record of this.

He received his Ph.D. for work with Tack Kuntz on molecular docking in 1991, from UCSF.

Dr. Shoichet's postdoctoral research was largely experimental, focusing on protein structure and stability with Brian Matthews at the Institute of Molecular Biology in Eugene, Oregon, as a Damon Runyon Fellow. Colleagues from Eugene have only sketchy memories of his time there. One recalls, "*He seemed to travel a lot.*" Matthews himself was unavailable for comment.

Dr. Shoichet joined the faculty at Northwestern University in the Department of Molecular Pharmacology & Biological Chemistry as an Assistant Professor in 1996. No record of this Department's existence can be found outside of one locked filing cabinet in Gene Silinsky's office. Silinsky was unavailable for comment.

In a fit of absent-mindedness, Dr. Shoichet was promoted to a tenured Associate Professor in 2002, only one year after his younger sister, Molly Shoichet, received tenure at the University of Toronto.

Dr. Shoichet is stoic about his apparently glacial development, and often likes to discuss it at parties. Around that time he was recruited back to UCSF, where he is now a Professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Chemistry. "*We confused him with Kevan Shokat,*" admits a member of the recruiting committee at UCSF.

A charismatic speaker, he is recalled as giving "*the best talk at the worst Keystone Conference I ever attended,*" by a senior NIH Program Officer.



RICHARD SILVERMAN, PHD

Professor
Departments of Chemistry
Weinberg College of Arts & Sciences
Northwestern University
Evanston, IL

Dr. Silverman received his B.S. in chemistry from the Pennsylvania State University (1968) and his Ph.D. degree in organic chemistry from Harvard University (1974; with time off for a two-year military obligation from 1969-1971). Subsequently he became an NIH postdoctoral fellow with the late Robert Abeles at the Graduate Department of Biochemistry, Brandeis University. In 1976 Dr. Silverman joined the Northwestern University as Assistant Professor in the Departments of Chemistry and Molecular Biosciences and was named Patrick G. Ryan/Aon Professor in 2015.

Dr. Silverstein's research interests include rational design, syntheses, and investigations of the molecular mechanisms of action of potential medicinal agents acting on enzymes. Over 350 research articles and five books (one [The Organic Chemistry of Drug Design and Drug Action] translated into German and Chinese) have been published by Dr. Silverman. In addition, he has filed 81 domestic and foreign patents. Dr. Silverstein is the inventor of Lyrica™, a drug marketed by Pfizer since 2005 for epilepsy, neuropathic pain, and fibromyalgia. He also completed a Phase I clinical trial of another drug for infantile spasms.

Dr. Silverstein holds numerous prestigious awards. Among his most recent awards are American Chemical Society Award for Creative Invention (2017), Fellow of the American Academy of Arts & Sciences (2014), Fellow of the National Academy of Inventors (2014), ICON Innovator Award of the iBIO Institute (2014), Northwestern University Trustee Medal for Faculty Innovation and Entrepreneurship (2014), Excellence in Medicinal Chemistry Prize of the Israel Chemical Society (2014), Centenary Prize of the Royal Society of Chemistry (2013), Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry (2013), BMS-Edward E. Smissman Awardee of the American Chemical Society (2013), Sato Memorial International Awardee from the Pharmaceutical Society of Japan (2012), Fellow of the American Chemical Society (2011), E.B. Hershberg Awardee for Important Discoveries in Medicinally Active Substances from the American Chemical Society (2011), Perkin Medal of the American Section of the Society of Chemical Industry (2009), Medicinal Chemistry Hall of Fame of the American Chemical Society (2009), Arthur C. Cope Senior Scholar Awardee of the American Chemical Society (2003).



GREGORY THATCHER, PHD

Professor
Department of Medicinal Chemistry & Pharmacognosy
College of Pharmacy
University of Illinois at Chicago
Chicago, IL

Dr. Thatcher earned his PhD in physical organic chemistry from the University of Toronto in 1986 designing models of carboxyl and phosphoryl group transfer enzymes. After studying nucleic acid analogues at Sheffield University and a SERC Fellowship at Oxford University, he joined the Chemistry Department at Queen's University, Canada, and was later cross-appointed in Pharmacology and Toxicology. At Queen's, his awards included the prestigious Merck-Frosst Therapeutic Award for Chemistry & Biochemistry and Fellowship of the Canadian Institute of Chemistry. Whilst in Canada, Dr. Thatcher conducted basic research in biological chemistry, which led to interest in antiviral prodrug strategies, and the ultimate prodrug, nitroglycerin; the latter leading to founding GoBang Therapeutics and raising \$15M of private venture funding to progress a novel small molecule therapeutic into clinical trials.

In 2003, Dr. Thatcher moved to the Department of Medicinal Chemistry & Pharmacognosy in the College of Pharmacy at UIC, motivated by a drive to establish an integrated, multi-disciplinary, translational research group to provide training to graduate students and postdocs in all aspects of drug discovery. He has served as mentor to 42 PhD, 10 MSc, and over 30 undergraduate thesis students and was awarded UIC Graduate Mentor of the Year in 2015. He has 147 publications and has been continuously funded by NIH and NCI

since moving to the USA. Dr. Thatcher has been an *ad hoc* member of diverse NIH study sections, has been a permanent member of Cancer Etiology, and is a permanent member of Drug Discovery for the Nervous System study sections. He has three drugs currently completing IND-enabling studies to undergo clinical trials: two for breast cancer therapy; two licensed to biotechs; and another to his own start-up company. In 2016, he was awarded University Innovator of the Year to recognize his efforts in advancing his inventions towards commercialization by entrepreneurial commitment to the licensing process and startups. He has been a University Scholar, and is the Hans W. Vahlteich Chair and Professor of Medicinal Chemistry and Associate Head for Research in the Department of Medicinal Chemistry & Pharmacognosy.

Dr. Thatcher is founding director of a campus-wide drug discovery initiative, UICentre (drug discovery @ UIC), to stimulate translational, interdisciplinary small molecule drug discovery at UIC. UICentre operates under the umbrella of the NCATS-supported Center for Clinical & Translational Sciences (CCTS) and supports collaborative teams by providing resources and expertise in: high throughput screening (HTS) and bioassay development; medicinal chemistry; drug metabolism and pharmacokinetics; and chemoproteomics. In four years, UICentre has engaged over 50 faculty in interdisciplinary collaborative research teams. This is a challenge and an opportunity for academics and for UIC to make a direct impact on human health.