

DISCOVERING NEW MEDICINES IN ARIZONA



I received my PhD degree from UC Riverside in 1984, was faculty at the USC School of Medicine followed by USC School of Pharmacy from 1986-2017 before moving to the University of Arizona in 2017 as the Associate Director of the Center for Innovation in Brain Science (CIBS). The primary focus of my research career has been the application of bench discoveries to clinical problems and the rational assessment of safety prior to entrance of drugs into clinical development. Over the years, I have participated in the development of medical devices with over 30 companies with 7 medical devices currently marketed (3 US and 4 only outside US). While I have advised a number of companies and researchers on pharmaceutical development, my star achievement is in the translation of discoveries from the initial screening in vitro in my laboratory to clinical development with the conduct of over 15 clinical trials from products from my laboratory. Further, I have been a board-certified toxicologist for 20 years and have had primary roles as a member of clinical development teams in the assessment of safety during pre-clinical and clinical development both as an academician and in industry. I have been personally responsible for the oversight of preclinical discovery, formulation, pharmacology, development and implementation of toxicology plans, GMP manufacturing of complex formulations, writing of regulatory documents, interactions with regulatory attorneys, interactions with the FDA both as an FDA advisor and a sponsor representative.

In my new role at CIBS, my focus has been on the role of cardiovascular dysfunction on Alzheimer's disease. With my background in drug development and the excellent research team assembled for this application, I truly believe that the studies performed will move the project forward towards an IND to regulate clinical development.