

The Pharmacologist

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Plotting the Path for ASPET **Discovery**

A Q&A with EIC John Schuetz, PhD



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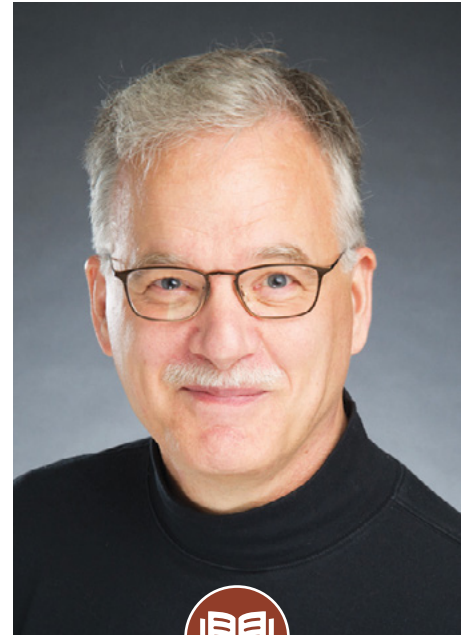
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On the Cover: Ribonucleic acid strands consisting of nucleotides important for protein bio-synthesis entering cell wall.

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Message from the President



Listen to [ASPET](#) President, Dr. Carol Beck, give updates on ASPET 2025 registration, *ASPET Discovery*, the Journal Editorial Fellows and more!

Watch the video

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A Note from Dave's Desk



Benefits of ASPET's Partnership with Elsevier

The start of 2025 marks an important milestone for [ASPET](#) and its highly respected and influential journals program. Beginning January 1, all of ASPET's wholly owned journals ([The Journal of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics](#), [Pharmacological Reviews](#), [Drug Metabolism and Disposition](#), and [Molecular Pharmacology](#)) are now published on Elsevier's platform. This change comes for ASPET after approximately 30 years of self-publishing, so rest assured that this change was not made lightly.

This decision was made to take advantage of a number of benefits for the ASPET community. For authors, this partnership provides financial flexibility so that authors will no longer be charged submission fees or page charges to publish in ASPET journals. Additionally, for those choosing to publish via open access, ASPET members will receive a 25% discount on open access fees for all of its journals. Speaking of Open Access, the partnership with Elsevier also enables ASPET to launch a new Gold Open Access journal, [ASPET Discovery](#).

Along with removing and reducing financial barriers, partnering with Elsevier will dramatically improve the reachability and accessibility of papers. One reason for this increased reach is ASPET journal content will now be included in [ScienceDirect](#), Elsevier's premier platform of peer-reviewed scholarly literature that's used by 95% of research with more than 120 million visitors each month. In addition, ASPET will benefit from the impressive marketing capabilities of Elsevier, as our journals will be promoted to the hundreds of thousands of pharmacology researchers in the Elsevier network.

Along with improving the experience for our authors, the ASPET editors and peer reviewers will also benefit from our new partnership with Elsevier. By working with the largest publisher in the world, ASPET staff and editors will have access to new analytical, bibliometric and plagiarism detection software tools to assist in the critical peer review process. It's important to note that ASPET editors, journal boards and staff will continue to manage the journals with full editorial control.

As I shared in April 2024 when we [first announced this partnership with our membership](#), we believe publishing with Elsevier has the potential to improve an already excellent author experience, provide more support and new tools to our reviewers and editors, and further expand the reach of our influential journals. We hope all members of the pharmacology community will experience the benefits of this partnership and consider publishing your science in [one of ASPET's journals](#).



Dave Jackson, MBA, CAE
Executive Officer, ASPET

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Cover Story



Plotting the Path for ASPET **Discovery**

A Q&A with EIC John Schuetz, PhD

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thepharmacologist.org

By Lynne Harris, MA, APR

John D. Schuetz, PhD, is the inaugural Editor-in-Chief of *ASPET Discovery*, the newest Gold Open Access journal of the *American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics*. In partnership with *Elsevier Publishing Company*, *ASPET Discovery*, a peer-reviewed Open Access journal, will publish bi-monthly and include a range of article types including original research articles and minireviews that address all areas of pharmacology and experimental therapeutics. Dr. Schuetz will serve a three-year term that can be renewed for one additional three-year term.

Dr. Schuetz begins his new position having served as an Associate Editor for the ASPET journals *Pharmacological Reviews* and *Drug Metabolism and Disposition* as well as a member of editorial boards of other journals. He is an ASPET Fellow (2021), former President of ASPET (2017), ASPET President-elect (2016) and Chair, ASPET Financial Task Force (2016). In addition, he has or is serving in leadership roles in other scientific societies, including the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the International Transmembrane Transporter Society. Dr. Schuetz recently shared his thoughts on plans for the new journal as the launch of *ASPET Discovery* gets underway with *The Pharmacologist*.

Q As you continue to roll out *ASPET Discovery*, what is your short-term goal for this new journal?

A My short-term goal is to ensure that we develop a pipeline of manuscripts submitted. An approach I'm using is to solicit requests for submissions from colleagues and their colleagues for contributions to our journal.



Q How do you describe the journal's scope and target audience?

A Because this is ASPET's first totally open access journal in partnership with Elsevier, I want our audience to understand that the remit of the journal is broad because we want to provide more opportunity to pharmacologists. In this context, studies related to drug mechanisms in pre-clinical and clinical aspects are important to include. It is also important to include a range from drug development to translational studies.

Q How would you approach evaluating manuscript submissions to ensure they align with *ASPET Discovery's* standards and goals that you expect?

A I think first and foremost is ensuring the presentation of rigorous, sound science. After all, we want our authors to be proud of publishing in *ASPET Discovery*.

Q How do you plan to attract authors with their article submissions to help *ASPET Discovery* get off to a great start?

A I think creating word-of-mouth buzz is important, as I mentioned, I am personally reaching out and inviting colleagues to submit to *ASPET Discovery*. I also think an advantage to authors is to avail themselves of the opportunity to transfer submissions from ASPET's established journals. There is some data from other journals that this route increases the chance of acceptance. With respect to composition of articles in the journal, I think a healthy mix—

primary papers and timely minireviews—will help to raise the journal's profile. Incidentally, I am encouraging the EAB [Editorial Advisory Board] members to invite their colleagues to submit to *ASPET Discovery*.

Q Generally speaking, when you start anything new, there are usually challenges. What challenges have you faced, or are currently facing, with getting this journal under way? How do you plan to move forward to avoid those challenges down the road?

A One challenge is to make sure I know the software used for submission as this will allow me to be most helpful to authors and the editorial board. Another challenge will be to get the word out and recruit potential authors. Also, while I have worked with many of the excellent ASPET publications staff, a need, not necessarily a challenge, will be to establish rapport with Elsevier staff. I think having periodic meetings and maintaining a dialog with all parties will avoid or minimize potential issues.

Q Are you building a team of editors to support you or do you have that team in place now? What are those roles?

A So far, for the initial needs of the journal, and keeping in mind that I want a diverse board, I have recruited three experienced associate editors (AEs) with diverse expertise and one experienced editorial board member. I plan to add more editorial board members depending on the needs of the journal.

Building *ASPET* *Discovery's* Foundation

Dr. Schuetz brings not only a wealth of publishing knowledge, but also extensive research experience. He is currently a faculty member of the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, after starting as an Assistant Member (1992–1993). He is a member and former Vice Chair (2005–2022) of the Pharmaceutical Sciences Department (now Department of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences). His laboratory employs a variety of sophisticated technologies (super-resolution microscopy, biochemistry, cell biology, proteomics, conditional knockouts, clustered regularly interspaced short palindromic repeats, or CRISPR screens, etc.) to understand how transporters contribute to pathophysiology, drug response, toxicology and metabolism. The lab has defined and functionally “de-orphaned” transporters: ABCB6, ABCG2, and ABCC4 with more than 175 articles in peer-reviewed journals and several patents related to ABC transporters.

He attended the University of Minnesota and, while in the honors program, was employed in the laboratory of Travis Thompson, PhD, known as a pioneer of behavioral pharmacology. He received his PhD from the Medical College of Virginia at Virginia Commonwealth University with Robert Diasio, MD, whose lab identified the genetic basis of dihydropyrimidine dehydrogenase (DPD) enzyme deficiency. Dr. Schuetz conducted postdoctoral training with I. David Goldman, MD, who studied SLC19A gene and folate metabolism. Dr. Schuetz also worked with Philip Guzelian, MD, who identified CYP3, a subfamily of the cytochrome P450 superfamily of genes. At the same institution, Dr. Schuetz identified and cloned CYP3A5 and 7. He intends to use his research experience and publishing knowledge to lead *ASPET Discovery* toward success.

Q What strategies would you use to identify and recruit qualified reviewers for manuscript submissions?

A I am relying on my prior *DMD* [*Drug Metabolism and Disposition*] experience of almost 20 years as well as other scientific journal editorial boards to identify reviewers. The AEs that have been appointed have sufficient prior board experience too. I will also encourage the AEs to rely on their network of reviewers, but also use literature to identify reviewers too.

Q What are the most pressing research questions or emerging trends with pharmacology that you would prioritize highlighting?

A Effectively using and incorporating large publicly available datasets and omics data and repositories (of all sorts, e.g., UK Biobank) into pharmacological research. These datasets addition, the explosion of structures with virtual library screens is catalyzing a revolution in drug discovery, especially when coupled with sophisticated high-throughput screens. I think the advancements in immunotherapies and vaccine technologies have been game changers for therapeutics.

“I think first and foremost is ensuring the presentation of rigorous, sound science... we want our authors to be proud of publishing in *ASPET Discovery*.”

Q Describe your process for providing constructive feedback to authors, including addressing any concerns about potential bias or ethical issues?

A My process for providing feedback is to, first and foremost, focus on critiquing the science. I will also try to investigate if the work is confirmatory or is an advance in the field. Certainly, replication is important to ensure rigorous science, but it is important to consider the context. With respect to bias in a review, if the language in a review is disparaging or inflammatory then I feel it incumbent for the editor handling the manuscript to edit the review accordingly. One's personal perspective or bias should not override or abridge the opportunity to publish sound science. If ethical issues arise, I would be initially contacting the ASPET Publications Chair as well as the ASPET Ethics editor. Their input will be invaluable in discerning and guiding how an ethical issue is handled.

Q As a former ASPET President and active participant with the Society along with your experience as a career researcher, you have a unique understanding of not only the Society's history, but also of the type of science that will continue to keep ASPET at the forefront of pharmacology. How can ASPET *Discovery* propel pharmacological science into the future?

A It is hard to prognosticate, but I think it is important to keep abreast of scientific and technological advances and breakthroughs and then determine which ones might be applicable to pharmacology.

Q Do you foresee opportunities for early-career scientists to publish their research in ASPET *Discovery* via special sections?

A I think it is important to provide opportunities for early-career scientists at all levels on editorial boards as well as in publishing. These individuals need opportunities to show independence as their efforts will set the stage for the future of science.

Q What foundational lessons have you learned from your experience on ASPET journals, that you feel will help you in preparing ASPET *Discovery* to develop into the future?

A I think it is important to step outside your personal science niche and appreciate the other facets of research and education.

Creating Opportunities for Future Scientists

Dr. Schuetz is looking forward to opening a new door for pharmacologists through *ASPET Discovery* by creating more opportunities for publishing. The future is bright for ASPET's new journal and could possibly lead to serving other scientists down the road. Through these new opportunities, Dr. Schuetz plans to elevate the field of pharmacologists for future scientists. He explains that following the trends will be critical.

“My process for providing feedback is to, first and foremost, focus on critiquing the science.”

Dr. Schuetz is laying the foundation for *ASPET Discovery*. His previous experience with ASPET will serve as a key component to understanding the audiences for *ASPET Discovery* to include ASPET members as well as expand submissions outside the box of pharmacology and beyond. Authors, including early-career scientists, can take advantage of many benefits of publishing in *ASPET Discovery*. Dr. Schuetz hopes to create more opportunities for authors to submit, in various ways including special sections and minireviews. Specifically, ASPET’s partnership with Elsevier, the world’s largest academic publisher in the world, will help ensure an expansive outreach across the globe to connect with potential authors.

Dr. Schuetz asserts that the future of pharmacology research relies on the community’s ability to share breakthrough science in pharmacology and experimental therapeutics. Predictions indicate that in the next decade, pharmacology will likely depend heavily on crucial factors such as new drug targets, the evolution of drug delivery systems and refinement of precision tools for personalized medicine. With pharmacology departments disappearing from many universities and colleges, many students interested in the discipline can experience difficulty as they try to find their places. Dr. Schuetz is hoping *ASPET Discovery* helps fill the void for pharmacological science.

As an open access journal with no subscription charges, *ASPET Discovery* requires a fee (Article Publishing Charge, APC) payable by the authors, or their institution or funders, to cover the costs associated with publication. The fee ensures articles will be immediately and permanently free to access by everyone.

The APC for *ASPET Discovery* is USD \$3,100 for full-length articles and USD \$2,170 for short articles. As a new journal, *ASPET Discovery* is offering a 100% promotion until January 31, 2026, and a 50% promotion that will run from Jan 1, 2027, to December 31, 2027. ASPET members are eligible for a 25% discount off the APC.

From mastering the journal’s software to creating an expansive, global reach to providing constructive feedback to forging new relationships, Dr. Schuetz is prepared to propel *ASPET Discovery* forward and create a space and a place for scientists to share their research in pharmacology and experimental therapeutics.

Learn more about [ASPET Discovery](#).



Lynne Harris, MA, APR

Lynne Harris, MA, APR, is ASPET’s Director of Marketing and Communications and Executive Editor of *The Pharmacologist*. She has more than 15 years of experience as a senior-level executive leading communications strategy and 10 years as a journalist. She holds a master’s degree in strategic public communications, Accreditation in Public Relations (APR) through Public Relations Society of America and a certificate in Integrated Communications.



Leadership Profile

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A Conversation with ASPET's Partnerships Committee Co-Chair, Micheline Piquette-Miller, PhD



Micheline Piquette-Miller, PhD, is ASPET's Partnerships Committee Co-Chair and helps raise awareness of ASPET's international role. She holds a doctorate in Pharmaceutical Sciences (Pharmacokinetics) from the University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada, after

receiving her BSc, Pharmacy from the same institution. Dr. Piquette-Miller did her postdoctoral training at the University of California, San Francisco, Department of Biopharmaceutics & Molecular Pharmacology. She is currently professor and Associate Dean of Research at the University of Toronto, Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy in Toronto, Canada.

Since 1996, Dr. Piquette-Miller has been leading her lab that specializes in understanding how pathophysiological conditions affect the efficacy and safety of drugs. She has published more than 130 research articles and has also contributed expertise as a member of the COVID-19 Clinical Pharmacology Ad-hoc Task Force for the Public Health Agency of Canada. Dr. Piquette-Miller has also been a recipient of numerous prestigious national and international research awards. She has also held positions on board of directors and executive councils of several scientific groups and is an associate editor of the journal, *Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics*. She has been an active member of ASPET since 2010.

In addition to her current role as Partnerships Committee Co-Chair, she has served as an annual meeting speaker and as a member of the *Drug Metabolism and Disposition* Editorial Advisory Board. Dr. Piquette-Miller shares her insight and guidance for young scientists.

How did you get started in pharmacology?

It started in high school when my mother was diagnosed with a chronic autoimmune disease. Watching her navigate treatments sparked a deep curiosity in me about medicine and how drugs work to combat illness. I knew I wanted to learn more, so I enrolled in the Pharmacy program at the University of Alberta. That decision was a game-changer.

Not only did the program provide top-notch professional training, but it also introduced me to the world of pharmacology research through their undergraduate summer research program. I vividly remember stepping into my first pharmacology and drug-testing laboratory—I was hooked! The thrill of discovery and the potential to make a difference inspired me to shift gears from a professional career to a research-focused path.

Driven by this passion, I pursued a PhD in pharmaceutical sciences with a specialization in pharmacokinetics. My PhD journey and subsequent post-doctoral training at UCSF were transformative. They gave me incredible opportunities to delve into both clinical and molecular pharmacology, sharpening my skills and deepening my expertise.

After completing two years of post-doctoral training, I joined the faculty of Pharmacy at the University of Toronto, where I established a translational pharmacology research laboratory. It's been an incredible journey, fueled by curiosity and a desire to bridge the gap between science and patient care.

How did you first get involved with ASPET?

My journey with ASPET began in 2007 when I was invited to speak at an ASPET symposium during the annual Experimental Biology meeting. From the moment I arrived, I was captivated by the incredible depth and diversity of research being presented and energized by the outstanding network of scientists in attendance. The experience left a lasting impression, and I quickly became a regular at ASPET's annual meetings.

Fast forward to 2019, when Eddie Morgan extended an invitation for me to join the newly established ASPET Global Partnership Task Force, which he was chairing. This task force had an ambitious mission: to identify strategic partners and opportunities that could elevate the Society's impact. In 2020, this visionary group evolved into what is now the Partnerships Committee. I initially served as a member and was later honored to step into the role of Chair. It's been an inspiring journey, filled with opportunities to contribute to ASPET's growth and global reach.

What do you want the ASPET membership to know about you and your ideas on how to move the organization forward during your term?

As a woman scientist and chair of the Partnerships Committee, I'm passionate about ensuring ASPET becomes an even stronger driving force in shaping the future of pharmacology on a global scale while creating a culture that promotes diversity and inclusivity. I envision ASPET as a leader in launching bold

initiatives that not only amplify the global visibility of our profession but also empower pharmacologists in under-resourced regions to actively contribute to groundbreaking advancements in science and medicine.

To move our organization forward, I believe we must elevate our advocacy efforts—ensuring that policymakers, funding agencies, and the public truly understand the critical role pharmacology plays in advancing healthcare. At the same time, fostering diversity, inclusivity, and meaningful engagement across all ASPET activities is essential to building a thriving and representative community.

The future of pharmacology also hinges on our ability to embrace and adapt to emerging technologies and research frontiers, such as artificial intelligence, data science, and systems biology. I'm committed to driving strategic initiatives that position ASPET at the forefront of these advancements, ensuring our society remains not only relevant but essential to the evolution of biomedical science.

What has been your proudest accomplishment in your career so far?

My proudest accomplishment, without a doubt, is mentoring and successfully graduating more than 20 PhD students who have since carved out remarkable careers in academia, industry, and regulatory agencies. Watching them grow into leaders in their fields has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life.

What makes it even more special is staying connected with them over the years—catching up at social gatherings or reuniting at scientific events. Seeing their achievements and knowing I played a part in their journey fills me with immense pride and reminds me why I'm so passionate about nurturing the next generation of scientists.

What advice would you give young scientists who are just starting out in their careers?

My advice? Dive in and get involved with ASPET—it can be a game-changer for their careers. Building leadership skills starts with action, so they shouldn't hesitate to join the [ASPET Mentoring Network](#) as well as to participate in [divisional communities](#) that align with their research. Volunteering for [subcommittees](#) or contributing to activities like symposium proposal planning is a fantastic way to grow, make an impact, and pave the path toward leadership roles within the Society.

Attending and actively participating in meetings is another crucial step. These gatherings are more than just events—they're golden opportunities to network, exchange ideas, and form relationships that can truly transform their careers. The connections they make and the skills they develop through ASPET can set the foundation for fulfilling and influential career opportunities. So, I would tell them to be confident, take the next step, and get involved.



Discussing Science. Discovering Cures.

Interested in Being a Guest Writer?

ASPET's Pharmacology Corner blog seeks contributing writers on a rolling basis.

Pharmacology Corner is a dedicated space where pharmacology experts can discuss issues that affect them professionally and personally.

The blog connects science and society through various pharmacology disciplines.

Contact us at pharmacocorner@aspet.org.



ASPET Congratulates its First IDEA Faculty Scholars

The first cohort of the [American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics'](#) (ASPET) Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Accessibility (IDEA) faculty scholars have been selected. The [ASPET IDEA Committee](#), under the direction of IDEA Committee Chair Ashim Malhotra, PhD, chose 13 ASPET members to participate based on an application process that included a Curriculum Vitae, a statement of interest and a summary of participation goals. The program started in the fall.

The IDEA Faculty Scholars Program, a national, competitive certificate program, includes a community of scholars who participate in a four-part series of online workshops on select topics. The workshops incorporate IDEA elements in syllabi design, instructional design, and classroom and laboratory teaching. The first hour of each workshop is a presentation by an invited expert followed by an hour of breakout sessions where the expert works with the participants on how to incorporate the discussed elements into their ongoing work.

Designed for faculty interested in embedding IDEA principles into their classrooms, the program encourages participants to bring a

project with them to the workshop. Projects can include a syllabus they may be developing for a future course or practical challenges they may be facing in the laboratory space. At the conclusion of the program, each participant is asked to turn in a work product that aims to improve IDEA within their instructional context.

ASPET launched the program in response to an urgent need to incorporate the IDEA principles in pharmacology education and training. Faculty, students, professional organizations and job sectors nationwide have seen the benefits that are possible from IDEA-enabled education. However, it can be challenging to design, implement and assess IDEA principles within pharmacology education. Participants who complete the program will be awarded and recognized at the [ASPET 2025 Annual Meeting](#).



ASPET appreciates Dr. Malhotra's leadership, commitment and vision in establishing this program and the IDEA Committee members for their support in launching the program.

Program Workshops

- 1. Designing your Course Syllabus using Principles of Psychological Safety and Competency-Based Tools to Promote Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Accessibility, and Belonging (IDEAB)**
Gayle A. Brazeau, PhD, Marshall University School of Pharmacy, Editor, *American Journal of Pharmaceutical Education*

- 2. Universal Design for Learning and the Ability Spectrum: Strategies to Diversify Your Teaching for Neurodiverse Learners and Learners with Differential Abilities**
Ashim Malhotra, PhD, FAPE, Assistant VP and Professor, California Northstate University

Program Workshops, *continued*

3. **Strategies to Augment Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Accessibility, and Belonging (IDEAB) Principles in Laboratory Settings**

Michelle A. Clark, PhD, Professor and Dean,
Nova Southeastern University Barry and
Judy Silverman College of Pharmacy

4. **Incorporating Evidence-based IDEAB Principles: The Data and Learning Theories That Support Them**

Jayne S. Reuben, PhD, Texas A&M University
College of Dentistry and Monzurul A. Roni, PhD,
University of Illinois College of Medicine

First Cohort of the ASPET IDEA Faculty Scholars



Hamid Akbarali, PhD

Harvey and Gladys
Hagg Professor
School of Medicine, Virginia
Commonwealth University



Simone Brixius-Anderko, PhD

Assistant Professor
(tenure track)
University of Pittsburgh
School of Pharmacy



**Margarita L. Dubocovich,
PhD, FACNP, FASPET**

SUNY Distinguished Professor
Jacobs School of Medicine
and Biomedical Sciences,
University at Buffalo



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Sai Sudha Koka PhD, RPh

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Georgia State University,
Perimeter College



Dionna Williams, PhD

Associate Professor
Emory University



Wei Yue, PhD

Associate Professor of
Pharmaceutical Sciences
University of Oklahoma
Health Sciences

ASPET Welcomes New Members

Share this!

Each month, ASPET welcomes new members to our home for pharmacology. This month, we recognize 144 individuals from 97 universities, colleges and companies who have joined 4,000 other members in the pharmacology community. Learn more about [ASPET membership](#).

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[Alexandria University](#)

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[Alice Walton School of Medicine](#)

Trager D. Hintze, PharmD

[Augusta University](#)

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Muhammad Ali Al-Radhawi, PhD

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In Memoriam

Share this!



Dr. Bradford Fischer (1977–2024) was a leader of the Mid-Atlantic Pharmacology Society (MAPS) ASPET's regional chapter, joining its Council in 2012. His excitement for the discipline of pharmacology and desire to mentor graduate and

medical students fit well with the mission of MAPS. Dr. Fischer took on several leadership roles at MAPS, including Abstract Chair for MAPS annual meetings. His passion for the organization continued and he was elected

MAPS Vice-President in 2017, ascending to the chapter's President role in 2019. Dr. Fischer joined ASPET in 2024.

After working as a laboratory technician with Dr. Steve Negus at Harvard Medical School, Dr. Fischer earned his PhD at UNC-Chapel Hill where he was mentored by Dr. Lynda Dykstra. He completed a postdoctoral fellowship at Harvard Medical School where he was mentored by Dr. James K. Rowlett. Dr. Fischer joined the faculty at Cooper Medical School of Rowan University in Camden, New Jersey, in 2012. He was tenured and promoted to Associate Professor in 2017.

Upcoming Events

ASPET 2025 Annual Meeting

April 3–6, 2025 · Portland, OR

Advancing the Science of Drugs and Therapeutics. Join us in Portland!

ASPET 2026 Annual Meeting

May 17–20, 2026 · Minneapolis, MN

Join us in Minneapolis!

20th World Congress of Basic and Clinical Pharmacology 2026

July 12–17, 2026 · Melbourne/Narrm, Australia

We will welcome the world's pharmacology and therapeutics community to the Melbourne Convention Centre in Melbourne/Narrm, Australia.



CALL FOR PAPERS

Authors are encouraged to submit an article proposal to JPET@aspet.org. All submissions must refer to *JPET's* [Instructions for Authors](#).

Advancing Pharmacotherapy for Age-Related Diseases: Bridging Treatment Gaps and Innovations for the Aging Population

A special section for an issue of *The Journal of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics* is accepting original research on that investigates mechanisms of age-related diseases with a focus on potential for development or implementation of new therapeutic strategies. Manuscripts can focus on:

- Conditions that may lead to accelerated aging phenotypes, with appropriate physiological and/or molecular methodologies
- Randomized placebo-controlled clinical trials
- Phase 1 clinical trials focusing on dose-dependent responses in aging and age-related diseases

Submission deadline:
May 1, 2025

Pharmacology of Next Generation Therapeutics

A special collection for an issue of *The Journal of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics* is seeking original research on therapeutic modalities and an accompanying award opportunity for trainees. In partnership with ASPET, the PhRMA Foundation will provide a \$5,000 Challenge Award to up to five trainees for outstanding papers accepted for this special collection. Manuscripts will pharmacology of novel modalities, both recent and investigational and other areas such as:

- Characterization of novel therapeutic classes
- Evaluation of new modalities in animal models
- Characterization of the PK/PD relationship for these therapeutics

Submission deadline:
July 1, 2025

Multi-Systems Pharmacology and Therapeutic Application of Adipokines and Neuropeptides in Obesity

A special section for an issue of *The Journal of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics* is accepting original research on obesity and its related diseases that focus on:

- Fundamental understanding of the pharmacology and pathophysiology of adipokines and neuropeptides in obesity and obesity-related diseases
- Novel therapeutic strategies targeting adipokine or neuropeptide signaling to manage obesity and related metabolic disorders

Submission deadline:
August 31, 2025



Advocacy Impact

Share this!

ASPET's *Advocacy Brief* Encourages Participation

By Tricia McCarter, CDMP, PCM

[The American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics](#) (ASPET) provides several advocacy resources to prepare its members to engage with congressional members. From interacting with the public to communicating with the media, the Society's advocacy efforts are shaping the science policy conversations regarding pharmacology not only on Capitol Hill but also beyond the halls of Congress.

Now in its second year, ASPET's science policy newsletter, *Advocacy Brief*, helps members keep up with breaking news on policy decisions and legislation affecting biomedical research, research funding opportunities, regulations and other important matters impacting pharmacology and pharmacologists.

Advocacy Brief, ASPET's science policy newsletter, provides up-to-date policy news and information relevant to the scientific, biomedical and research communities. The Society's government affairs and science policy team work to advance the interests of ASPET members by meeting and advocating for these interests with elected officials and

staff. *Advocacy Brief* is a member benefit that highlights the latest policy, appropriations and other relevant news from Capitol Hill and the federal agencies representing scientists.

The bi-monthly newsletter also offers opportunities for members to provide feedback on policy issues and ASPET's comments on requests for information from congressional committees. Recently, *Advocacy Brief* covered several issues, including:

- NIH's scientific integrity policy on research integrity;
- How NIH utilizes AI and other digital technologies to enhance its grants and application management operations;
- Appropriation hearings on funding levels affecting federal agencies, including NIH;
- Status updates on political stalemates on Capitol Hill directly affecting scientists;
- FDA guidance documents that advise the public on the agency's interpretation of statutes and regulations; and
- ASPET's comments on re-envisioning postdoctoral research training.



ADVOCACY BRIEF

ASPET's Science Policy Newsletter

Advocacy Brief is a resource for ASPET members to not only stay informed about science policy issues that affect them, but also to capitalize on opportunities to have their voices and opinions heard. Congressional Requests for Information on topics affecting ASPET members

are shared in the newsletter, making this a unique opportunity for members to become involved in influencing policy outcomes that impact their work.

To receive regular issues of *Advocacy Brief*, [join ASPET!](#)

Are You Looking for a Mentoring Match?

As an ASPET member you'll get:

- Access to member-only online platform with unique algorithm to help you connect with the right person
- One-on-one mentoring relationships for all career levels
- Goal setting tools and career resources
- Guidance for your specific professional needs

Take the next step in building your career. Sign up for MentorMatch!



On Their Way...

Share this!

Each month, the editors of three of the American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics (ASPET) journals choose who they call their Highlighted Trainee Authors. These early-career scientists are recognized for their innovative research published in *The Journal of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics*, *Drug Metabolism and Disposition*, and *Molecular Pharmacology*. This feature showcases selected young scientists, demonstrates what drives them and reveals why pharmacology is important to them.



Gavin Traber

“My passion for science began in the fifth grade in my hometown of La Crescenta, California while learning about cellular structure and substructure, as well as how these basic units

of life come together, organize, reproduce, and function to sustain life,” stated Gavin Traber who recently received his PhD in Biochemistry, Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology from the University of California Davis School of Medicine.

Growing up, Gavin was “captivated by the work of naturalist Sir David Attenborough, through his novels and documentaries as well as Mr. William (Bill) Nye, who took the intricacies within many scientific concepts and processes and made them approachable for young and aspiring scientists at the time, such as myself.” This inspired his undergraduate studies where he was introduced to the impacts and biological functions of both coding and noncoding RNAs by his genetics professor, Dr. Rebekah Rampey, as well as exposure to basic scientific research and study design.

Additionally, Gavin owes his scientific curiosity as well as his philosophy and approach to science to his undergraduate professors at

Harding University Department of Biology, astrophysicist Dr. Neil deGrasse Tyson, his former mentors Drs. Daniel Hornburg and Sara Ahadi, and chiefly his primary investigator and mentor for his graduate training and this study, Dr. Ai-Ming Yu.

When asked about plans for his career and research, Gavin shares that his near-term career plan is to serve a postdoctoral fellowship under Dr. Kathlene Sakamoto at Stanford University School of Medicine in the Department of Pediatrics studying pediatric acute myeloid leukemia and hematopoiesis. While his long-term plans to pursue a career as a research scientist in the San Francisco-San Jose Bay Area of California, “and to use my skills to contribute to a better understanding of the molecular roots behind disease at institutions focused on the development and translation of basic science and research to helping the lives of patients and ultimately pass along my knowledge and experiences to coming generations of future scientists.”

Gavin’s study helps establish the pharmacological actions, therapeutic potential, and molecular functions of microRNA-7 as well as the reliability and robustness of this novel RNA molecular bioengineering platform technology to allow in vivo fermentation production of target BioRNA/miRNA agents. He hopes that his research will provide a step forward in the use of microRNAs and other

non-coding RNAs as novel therapeutic strategies and illustrate the potential for RNA and/or small molecule/current standard of care combination therapy as a potential route to combat NSCLC tumor progression.

When asked what [being published](#) in the January issue of *Molecular Pharmacology* means to him, Gavin explains that “ASPET is a premiere society focused on the support of researchers, educators, and students in pharmacology. The key tenets of the ASPET mission are to advance the science of drugs and therapeutics to accelerate the discovery of cures for disease. With these characteristics in mind, being published in the ASPET journal of *Molecular Pharmacology* is an absolute honor.”



Sejal Sharma

It was in high school when Sejal Sharma fell in love with chemistry and biology and was fascinated with how they connected drug discovery to treating diseases. This interest

led to him studying pharmacy and then eventually becoming a pharmacist. Later, he wanted to focus on research, which inspired him to pursue his PhD in pharmaceutical sciences to understand the science behind

drug development. Now, Sejal is currently a Postdoctoral Research Scholar at the University of Washington’s Department of Pharmaceutics.

While Sejal’s career decisions were driven by his own interest, it was also the unwavering support of his parents and family. “My dad, an educator, emphasized the value of education and a thoughtful career choice. My uncle, who completed graduate school in the U.S., also inspired me by sharing insights into research opportunities and the potential for growth in the field.”

Sejal’s future plans include staying focused on pharmacokinetics and building on his background in drug metabolism and transporters. As part of his postdoctoral work, Sejal aims to advance and contribute to the major discoveries in transporter science.

“I hope my research will impact pharmacology by uncovering key transport processes for molecules across biological barriers. This understanding can improve pharmacokinetic parameters, aid drug development, and ultimately help deliver effective treatments to patients.”

For Sejal, [being published](#) in the January issue of *The Journal of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics* is a significant honor. “It’s a prestigious platform, and my PhD mentor had his own PhD/post doc papers published here, which has always inspired me.”

Contribute to *The* Pharmacist

ASPET’s award-winning flagship magazine [The Pharmacist](#) seeks writers interested in contributing human interest and science stories focused on pharmacology. Contact us at thepharmacist@aspet.org. Please include links to writing samples.



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ASPET 2025

Advancing the Science of Drugs & Therapeutics
April 3 - 6 • Portland, OR

Join us in Portland as we convene to showcase the hottest scientific research in pharmacology!

Register by January 30 to be eligible for discounted rates and save up to 50% off full-priced registration rates!

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