

Darren W. Engers, Ph.D.

Vanderbilt Center for Neuroscience Drug Discovery
Vanderbilt University
393 Nichol Mill Lane
Franklin, TN 37067

Work: (615) 322-0673
Mobile: (615) 517-5545
darren.engers@vanderbilt.edu

EDUCATION

- 2006 – 2008** **Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Department of Chemistry**
Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee
- 2000 – 2006** **Ph.D., Organic Chemistry**
The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, Texas
- 1994 – 1998** **B.S., Chemistry**
University of Delaware, Newark, Delaware

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2023 - present** **Vanderbilt University, Warren Center for Neuroscience Drug Discovery (WCNDD)**
- Research Assistant Professor; Senior Director of Medicinal Chemistry
- Along with Dr. Bruce Melancon, co-Director of Medicinal Chemistry, manage and direct the medicinal chemistry group in regards to individual projects, personnel and operations
 - Project Leader for multiple CNS programs, including M4 PAM, M1 PAM and Ion Channel projects.
 - Mentor new project leaders in the direction, design and interpretation of structure-activity relationship (SAR) for numerous other programs/projects, including mGlu2 NAM and mGlu8 PAM.
 - Several of these drug discovery programs are in active collaborations with major pharmaceutical companies (ONO Pharmaceuticals, Neumora, Acadia Pharmaceuticals) resulting in licensing deals and milestone payments.
 - Along with Dr. Bruce Melancon, co-Director of Medicinal Chemistry, supervise 35+ very productive research assistants, post-doctoral fellows and staff scientists on various internal projects.
- 2020 - 2023** **Vanderbilt University, Warren Center for Neuroscience Drug Discovery (WCNDD)**
- Research Assistant Professor; Director of Medicinal Chemistry
- Coordinate with the WCNDD Director, Dr. Lindsley, about all matters related to WCNDD Medicinal Chemistry programs and operations
 - Medicinal Chemistry Group Leader for multiple CNS programs and coordinate/assist with the remaining WCNDD programs.
 - Provide effective leadership in the direction, design and interpretation of structure-activity relationship (SAR) for numerous programs/projects, including M1/M4 PAM, M4 Antagonist, mGlu2 NAM and Ion Channel targets.

- Along with Dr. Bruce Melancon, co-Director of Medicinal Chemistry, supervise 30+ very productive research assistants, post-doctoral fellows and staff scientists on various internal projects.

2018 - 2020 **Vanderbilt University, Vanderbilt Center for Neuroscience for Drug Discovery**

Research Assistant Professor; Associate Director of Medicinal Chemistry

- Coordinate with the Director of Medicinal Chemistry, Dr. Lindsley, about all matters related to VCNDD Medicinal Chemistry programs and operations
- As a Medicinal Chemistry Group Leader, provide effective leadership in the direction, design and interpretation of structure-activity relationship (SAR) for numerous programs/projects, including M1/M4 PAM, M4 Antagonist and Ion Channel targets.
- Several of these drug discovery programs are in active collaborations with major pharmaceutical companies resulting in licensing deals and milestone payments.
- Supervise 10-15 very productive research assistants, post-doctoral fellows and staff scientists on various internal projects.

2012 – 2018 **Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Vanderbilt Center for Neuroscience Drug Discovery**

Research Instructor

- Medicinal Chemistry Group Leader for multiple Muscarinic receptor programs
- Provide effective leadership in the direction, design and interpretation of structure-activity relationship (SAR) for numerous programs/projects, including metabotropic glutamate receptor (mGluR) 4 PAM, mGluR5 PAM/NAM and M1/M4 PAM.
- Collaborated with Prof. Charles Hong on the discovery and design of selective modulators for the Bone Morphogenetic Protein (BMP) that led to a licensing deal with Lajolla Pharmaceuticals (9/2015).
- Supervise 8-10 very productive research assistants, post-doctoral fellows and staff scientists on various internal projects.

2008 – 2012 **Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Vanderbilt Center for Neuroscience Drug Discovery**

Drug Discovery I Scientist (promoted to Drug Discovery Scientist II in 2011)

- Provided leadership in the design and interpretation of SAR for numerous programs/projects, including mGluR4 PAM, mGluR5 PAM/NAM and mGluR1 NAM.
- Integral member of mGluR4 PAM team that has submitted 10 patent applications, of which I was co-inventor of 6 patents.
- Active collaboration within the numerous MLPCN projects and contributed to 3 declared probes (Kir 2.1 and mGluR 4 PAM (2)).
- Supervised and mentored junior chemists (graduate students/staff) with a focus on individual growth and successful project completion.

2006 – 2008 **Vanderbilt University, Department of Chemistry**

Postdoctoral research fellow

Advisor: Prof. Gary A. Sulikowski

- Independently designed and implemented a novel approach toward the systematic synthesis of both HMP-Y1, a metabolite produced from blocked mutant of hibarimicins, and hibarimicinone, a *Src* tyrosine inhibitor.
- Developed an efficient synthesis towards a highly functionalized enone using a chiron based strategy and studied intramolecular Diels-Alder reactions leading to the fully functionalized *cis*-decalin fragment of both HMP-Y1 and hibarimicinone.
- Supervising and mentored several graduate students with a focus on intellectual and project development.
- Served as a judge for the graduate student and post-doc poster presentations at the 3rd Annual Vanderbilt Institute Chemical Biology Member Retreat.

2000 – 2006

University of Texas at Austin, Department of Chemistry

Advisor: Prof. Brian L. Pagenkopf

Thesis title: *Studies Toward the Total Synthesis of Peloruside A*

- Synthesized a complex polyoxygenated 16-membered macrolactone, Peloruside A, with an emphasis on efficient routes, catalytic reactions and chiron based strategies.
- Studied the effects of β -heterocyclic aldehydes with a α -benzyloxymethyl ketone in the Mukaiyama and boron-mediated aldol reactions that resulted in unprecedented facial selectivity.
- Supervised and mentored a 1st year graduate student in the synthesis, purification and characterization of β -heterocyclic aldehydes for use in the above aldol study.
- Contributed to the design, implementation, and supervision of an advanced undergraduate-level laboratory in modern organic synthesis (CH 341).

1999 – 2000

Rhone-Poulenc

Rorer,

Collegeville,

PA

Research Assistant, New Leads Discovery Department

Department Director: Joseph M. Salvino, Ph.D.

- Research focused on traditional single compound synthesis, as well as, parallel solution and solid phase synthesis, including Irori technology.
- Synthesized tetrafluorophenol (TFP) activated resins that were extensively used for the synthesis of focused libraries.
- Prepared substituted piperazines using solid phase synthesis and heterocyclic amines via the Bienamy reaction from solution phase synthesis. These amines were used with TFP resins to form potential biologically active molecules.
- Completed the synthesis of a focused library of sulfonamides and amides from α -amino lactams that provided SAR with a 10 fold enhancement in biological activity and resulted in a lead compound that was advanced for consideration as a product candidate.
- Demonstrated the keen ability to work both independently and in a team environment: demonstrated ability to collaborate with Biological and Medicinal Chemistry team members.

1994 – 1998

University of Delaware, Newark, Delaware

Advisor: Prof. P. Andrew Evans

- Completed the methodology of α,α -dimethyl silyl enol ethers via cyclopropanation followed by a mercury-mediated oxidative Rubottom rearrangement for the synthesis of the B ring of Mycalamide A.

- Collaborated with all members of the group and learned valuable organic synthetic techniques.

PUBLICATIONS

- 66) “Synthesis and characterization of chiral 6-azaspiro[2.5]octanes as potent and selective antagonists of the M₄ muscarinic acetylcholine receptor”, Bender, A.M.; Carter, T.R.; Spock, M.; Rodriguez, A.L.; Dickerson, J.W.; Rook, J.M.; Chang, S.; Qi, A.; Presley, C.C.; Engers, D.W.; Harp, J.M.; Bridges, T.M.; Niswender, C.M.; Conn, P.J.; Lindsley, C.W. *Bioorg. Med. Chem. Lett.* **2022**, *56*, 128479.
- 65) “Discovery of structurally distinct tricyclic M₄ positive allosteric modulator (PAM) chemotypes – Part 2”, Long, M.F.; Capstick, R.A.; Spearing, P.K.; Engers, J.L.; Gregro, A.R.; Bollinger, S.R.; Chang, S.; Luscombe, V.B.; Rodriguez, A.L.; Cho, H.P.; Niswender, C.M.; Bridges, T.M.; Conn, P.J.; Lindsley, C.W.; **Engers, D.W.**; Temple, K.J. *Bioorg. Med. Chem. Lett.* **2021**, *53*, 128416.
- 64) “Discovery of VU6028418: A Highly Selective and Orally Bioavailable M₄ Muscarinic Acetylcholine Receptor Antagonist”, Spock, M.; Carter, T.R.; Bollinger, K.A.; Han, C.; Baker, L.A.; Rodriguez, A.L.; Peng, L.; Dickerson, J.W.; Qi, A.; Rook, J.M.; O’Neill, J.C.; Watson, K.J.; Chang, S.; Bridges, T.M.; Engers, J.L.; **Engers, D.W.**; Niswender, C.M.; Conn, P.J.; Lindsley, C.W.; Bender, A.M. *ACS Med. Chem. Lett.* **2021**, *12*, 1342-1349.
- 63) “Discovery of a novel class of heteroaryl-pyrrolidinones as positive allosteric modulators of the muscarinic acetylcholine receptor M₁”, Spearing, P.K.; Cho, H.P.; Luscombe, V.B.; Blobaum, A.L.; Boutaud, O.; **Engers, D.W.**; Rodriguez, A.L.; Niswender, C.M.; Conn, P.J.; Lindsley, C.W.; Bender, A.M. *Bioorg. Med. Chem. Lett.* **2021**, *47*, 128193.
- 62) “Discovery, synthesis and characterization of a series of 7-aryl-imidazo[1,2-a]pyridine-3-ylquinolines as activating-like (ALK) inhibitors”, **Engers, D.W.**; Bollinger, S.R.; Felts, A.S.; Vadukoot, A.K.; Williams, C.H.; Blobaum, A.L.; Lindsley, C.W.; Hong, C.C.; Hopkins, C.H. *Bioorg. Med. Chem. Lett.* **2020**, *30*, 127418.
- 61) “Discovery of structurally distinct tricyclic M₄ positive allosteric modulator (PAM) chemotypes”, Temple, K.J.; Long, M.F.; Engers, J.L.; Watson, K.J.; Chang, S.; Luscombe, V.B.; Rodriguez, A.L.; Niswender, C.M.; Bridges, T.M.; Conn, P.J.; **Engers, D.W.**; Lindsley, C.W. *Bioorg. Med. Chem. Lett.* **2020**, *30*, 126811.
- 60) “Discovery of a novel 2,3-dimethylimidazo[1,2-a]pyrazine-6-carboxamide M₄ positive allosteric modulator (PAM) chemotype”, Temple, K.J.; Engers, J.L.; Long, M.F.; Watson, K.J.; Chang, S.; Luscombe, V.B.; Jenkins, M.T.; Rodriguez, A.L.; Niswender, C.M.; Bridges, T.M.; Conn, P.J.; **Engers, D.W.**; Lindsley, C.W. *Bioorg. Med. Chem. Lett.* **2020**, *30*, 126812.
- 59) “Discovery of a novel 3,4-dimethylcinnoline carboxamide M₄ positive allosteric modulator (PAM) chemotype via scaffold hopping”, Temple, K.J.; Engers, J.L.; Long, M.F.; Gregro, A.R.; Watson, K.J.; Chang, S.; Jenkins, M.T.; Luscombe, V.B.; Rodriguez, A.L.; Niswender, C.M.; Bridges, T.M.; Conn, P.J.; **Engers, D.W.**; Lindsley, C.W. *Bioorg. Med. Chem. Lett.* **2019**, *29*, 126678.
- 58) “SAR inspired by aldehyde oxidase (AO) metabolism: Discovery of novel, CNS penetrant tricyclic M₄ PAMs”, Chopko, T.C.; Han, C.; Gregro, A.R.; **Engers, D.W.**; Felts, A.S.; Poslusney, M.S.; Bollinger, K.A.; Morrison, R.D.; Bubser, M.; Lamsal, A.; Luscombe, V.B.; Cho, H.P.; Schnetz-Boutaud, N.C.; Rodriguez, A.L.; Chang, S.; Daniels, J.S.; Stec, D.F.; Niswender, C.M.; Jones, C.K.; Wood, M.R.; Wood, M.W.; Duggan, M.E.; Brandon, N.J.; Conn, P.J.; Lindsley, C.W.; Melancon, B.J. *Bioorg. Med. Chem. Lett.* **2019**, *29*, 2224-2228.

- 57) “Structure-Activity Relationships, Pharmacokinetics, and Pharmacodynamics of the Kir6.2/SUR1-specific channel opener VU0071063”, Kharade, S.V.; Sanchez-Andres, J.V.; Fulton, M.G.; Shelton, E.L.; Blobaum, A.L.; **Engers, D.W.**; Hofmann, C.S.; Dadi, P.K.; Latier, L.; Jacobson, D.A.; Lindsley, C.W.; Denton, J.S. *J. Pharmacol. Exper. Ther.* **2019**, *370*, 350-359.
- 56) “VU6005806/AZN-00016130, an advanced M₄ positive allosteric modulator (PAM) profiled as a potential preclinical development candidate”, **Engers, D.W.**; Melancon, B.J.; Gregro, A.R.; Betron, J.L.; Bollinger, S.R.; Felts, A.S.; Konkol, L.C.; Wood, M.R.; Bollinger, K.A.; Luscombe, V.B.; Rodriguez, A.L.; Jones, C.K.; Bubser, M.; Yohn, S.E.; Wood, M.W.; Brandon, N.J.; Dugan, M.E. Niswender, C.M.; Conn, P.J.; Bridges, T.M.; Lindsley, C.W. *Bioorg. Med. Chem. Lett.* **2019**, *29*, 1714-1718.
- 55) “Towards a TREK-1/2 (TWIK-Related K⁺ channel 1 and 2) dual activator tool compound multi-dimensional optimization of BL-1249”, Iwaki, Y.; Yashiro, K.; Kokubo, M.; Mori, T.; Wieting, J.M.; McGowan, K.M.; Bridges, T.M.; **Engers, D.W.**; Denton, J.S.; Kurata, H.; Lindsley, C.W. *Bioorg. Med. Chem. Lett.* **2019**, *29*, 1601-1604.
- 54) “M₁ muscarinic receptors modulate fear-related inputs to the prefrontal cortex: Implications for novel treatments of posttraumatic stress disorder”, Maksymetz, J.; Joffe, M.E.; Moran, S.P.; Stansley, B.J.; Li, B.; Temple, K.J.; **Engers, D.W.**; Lawrence, J.J.; Lindsley, C.W.; Conn, P.J. *Biol. Psychiatry* **2019**, *85*, 989-1000.
- 53) “Surveying heterocycles as amide bioisosteres within a series of mGlu7 NAMs: Discovery of VU6019278”, Reed C.W.; Washecheck, J.P.; Quitlag, M.C.; Jenkins, M.T.; Rodriguez, A.L.; **Engers, D.W.**; Blobaum, A.L.; Conn, P.J.; Niswender, C.M.; Lindsley, C.W. *Bioorg. Med. Chem. Lett.* **2019**, *29*, 1211-1214.
- 52) “Discovery of VU2957 (Valiglurax): An mGlu₄ Positive Allosteric Modulator Evaluated as a Preclinical Candidate for the Treatment of Parkinson’s Disease”, Panarese, J.D.; **Engers, D.W.**; Wu, Y.J.; Bronson, J.J.; Macor, J.E.; Chun, A.; Rodriguez, A.L.; Felts, A.S.; Engers, J.L.; Loch, M.T.; Emmitte, K.A.; Castelhana, A.L.; Kates, M.J.; Nader, M.A.; Jones, C.K.; Blobaum, A.L.; Conn, P.J.; Niswender, C.M.; Hopkins, C.R.; Lindsley, C.W. *ACS Med. Chem. Lett.* **2019**, *10*, 255-260.
- 51) “Discovery of an Orally Bioavailable and Central Nervous System (CNS) Penetrant mGlu7 Negative Allosteric Modulator (NAM) in Vivo Tool Compound: N-(2-(1H-1,2,4-triazol-1-yl)-5-(trifluoromethoxy)phenyl)-4-(cyclopropylmethoxy)-3-methoxybenzamide (VU6012962)”, Reed, C.W.; Yohn, S.E.; Washechck, J.P.; Roenfanfz, H.F.; Quitalig, M.C.; Luscombe, V.B.; Jenkins, M.T.; Rodriguez, A.L.; **Engers, D.W.**; Blobaum, A.L.; Conn, P.J.; Niswender, C.M.; Lindsley, C.W. *J. Med. Chem.*, **2019**, *62*, 1690-1695.
- 50) “Novel M₄ Positive allosteric modulators derived from questioning the role and impact of a presumed intramolecular hydrogen-bonding motif in B-amino carboxamide-harboring ligands”, Poslusney, M.S.; Salovich, J.M.; Wood, M.R.; Melancon, B.J.; Bollinger, K.A.; Luscombe, V.B.; Rodriguez, A.L.; **Engers, D.W.**; Bridges, T.M.; Niswender, C.M.; Conn, P.J.; Lindsley, C.W. *Bioorg. Med. Chem. Lett.* **2019**, *29*, 362-366.
- 49) “The discovery of VU0652957 (VU2957, Valiglurax): SAR and DMPK challenges en route to an mGlu₄ PAM development candidate”, Panarese, J.D.; **Engers, D.W.**; Wu, Y.J.; Guernon, J.M.; Chun, A.; Gregro, A.R.; Bender, A.M.; Capstick, R.A.; Witing, J.M.; Bronson, J.J.; Macor, J.E.; Westphal, R.; Soars, M.; Engers, J.E.; Felts, A.S.; Rodriguez, A.L.; Emmitte, K.A.; Jones, C.K.; Blobaum, A.L.; Conn, P.J.; Niswender, C.M.; Hopkins, C.R.; Lindsley, C.W. *Bioorg. Med. Chem. Lett.* **2019**, *29*, 342-346.

- 48) “Discovery, Structure-Activity Relationship, and Biological Characterization of a Novel Series of 6-((1H-pyrazolo[4,3-b]pyridine-3-yl)amino)-benzo[d]isothiazole-3-carboxamides as Positive Allosteric Modulators of the Metabotropic Glutamate Receptor 4 (mGlu4)”, Bollinger, S.R.; **Engers, D.W.**; Panerese, J.D.; West, M.; Engers, J.L.; Loch, M.T.; Rodriguez, A.L.; Blobaum, A.L.; Jones, C.K.; Thompson, G.A.; Conn, P.J.; Lindsley, C.W.; Niswender, C.M.; Hopkins, C.R. *J. Med. Chem.*, **2019**, *62*, 342-358.
- 47) “VU6007477, a Novel M₁ PAM Based on a Pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridine Carboxamide Core Devoid of Cholinergic Adverse Events”, Engers, J.L.; Childress, E.S.; Long, M.F.; Capstick, R.A.; Luscombe, V.B.; Cho, H.P.; Dickerson, J.W.; Rook, J.M.; Blobaum, A.L.; Niswender, C.M.; **Engers, D.W.**; Conn, P.J.; Lindsley, C.W. *ACS Med. Chem. Lett.* **2018**, *9*, 917-922.
- 46) “Discovery and characterization of N-(1,3-dialkyl-1H-indazol-6-yl)-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-b]pyridine-3-amine scaffold as mGlu₄ positive allosteric modulators that mitigate CYP1A2 induction liability”, **Engers, D.W.**; Bollinger, S.R.; Engers, J.L.; Panerese, J.D.; Breiner, M.M.; Gregro, A.R.; Blobaum, A.L.; Bronson, J.J.; Wu, Y.J.; Macor, J.E.; Rodriguez, A.L.; Zamorano, R.; Conn, P.J.; Lindsley, C.W.; Niswender, C.M.; Hopkins, C.R. *Bioorg. Med. Chem. Lett.* **2018**, *28*, 2641-2646.
- 45) “The Discovery of VU0486846: steep SAR from a series of M₁ PAMs based on a novel benzomorpholine core”, Bertron, J.L.; Cho, H.P.; Garcia-Barrantes, P.M.; Panerese, J.D.; Salovich, J.M.; Nance, K.D.; **Engers, D.W.**; Rook, J.M.; Blobaum, A.L.; Niswender, C.M.; Stauffer, S.R.; Conn, P.J.; Lindsley, C.W. *Bioorg. Med. Chem. Lett.* **2018**, *28*, 2175-2179.
- 44) “M₁-positive allosteric modulators lacking agonist activity provide the optimal profile for enhancing cognition”, Moran, S.P.; Dickerson, J.W.; Cho, H.P.; Maksymetz, J.; Remke, D.H.; Lv, X.; Doyle, C.A.; Rajan, D.H.; Niswender, C.M.; Engers, D.W.; Lindsley, C.W.; Rook, J.M.; Conn, P.J. *Neuropsychopharmacology* **2018**, *43*, 1763-1771.
- 43) “VU6010608, a Novel mGlu₇ NAM from a Series of N-(2-(1H-1,2,4-triazol-1-yl)-5-(trifluoromethoxy)phenyl)benzamides”, Reed, C.W.; McGowan, K.M.; Spearing, P.K.; Stansley, B.J.; Roenfanz, H.F.; **Engers, D.W.**; Rodriguez, A.L.; Engelberg, E.M.; Luscombe, V.B.; Loch, M.T.; Remke, D.H.; Rook, J.M.; Blobaum, A.L.; Conn, P.J.; Niswender, C.M.; Lindsley, C.W. *ACS Med. Chem. Lett.* **2017**, *12*, 1326-1330.
- 42) “Challenges in the development of an M₄ PAM preclinical candidate: The discovery, SAR, and biological characterization of a series of azetidine-derived tertiary amides”, Tarr, J.C.; Wood, M.R.; Noetzel, M.J.; Melancon, B.J.; Lamsal, A.; Luscombe, V.B.; Rodriguez, A.L.; Byers, F.W.; Chang, S.; Cho, H.P.; **Engers, D.W.**; Jones, C.K.; Niswender, C.M.; Wood, M.W.; Brandon, N.J.; Duggan, M.E.; Conn, P.J.; Bridges, T.M.; Lindsley, C.W. *Bioorg. Med. Chem. Lett.* **2017**, *27*, 5179-5184.
- 41) “Discovery of VU6005649, a CNS Penetrant mGlu_{7/8} Receptor PAM Derived from a Series of Pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidines”, Abe, M.; Seto, M.; Gogliotti, R.G.; Loch, M.T.; Bollinger, K.A.; Chang, S.; Engelberg, E.M.; Luscombe, V.B.; Harp, J.M.; Bubser, M.; **Engers, D.W.**; Jones, C.K.; Rodriguez, A.L.; Blobaum, A.L.; Conn, P.J.; Niswender, C.M.; Lindsley, C.W. *ACS Med. Chem. Lett.* **2017**, *8*, 1110-1115.
- 40) “Discovery of a novel 2,4-dimethylquinoline-6-carboxamide M₄ positive allosteric modulator (PAM) chemotype via scaffold”, Long, M.F.; Engers, J.L.; Chang, S.; Zhan, X.; Weiner, R.L.; Luscombe, V.B.; Rodriguez, A.L.; Cho, H.P.; Niswender, C.M.; Bridges, T.M.; Conn, P.J.; **Engers, D.W.**; Lindsley, C.W. *Bioorg. Med. Chem. Lett.* **2017**, *27*, 4999-5001.
- 39) “Discovery of a novel, CNS penetrant M₄ PAM chemotype based on a 6-fluoro-4-(piperidinyl-1-yl)quinolone-3-carbonitrile core”, Bewley, B.R.; Spearing, P.K.; Weiner, R.L.; Luscombe, V.B.;

- Zhan, X.; Chang, S.; Cho, H.P.; Rodriguez, A.L.; Niswender, C.M.; Conn, P.J.; Bridges, T.M.; **Engers, D.W.**; Lindsley, C.W. *Bioorg. Med. Chem. Lett.* **2017**, *27*, 4274-4279.
- 38) “mGlu₇ potentiation rescues cognitive, social, and respiratory phenotypes in a mouse model of Rett syndrome”, Gogliotti, R.G.; Senter, R.K.; Fisher, N.M.; Adams, J.; Zamorano, R.; Walker, A.G.; Blobaum, A.L.; **Engers, D.W.**; Hopkins, C.R.; Daniels, J.S.; Jones, C.K.; Lindsley, C.W.; Xiang, Z.; Conn, P.J.; Niswender, C.M. *Sci. Transl. Med.* **2017**, *9*, 1-11.
- 37) “Discovery and optimization of 3-(4-aryl/heteroarylsulfonyl)piperazin-1-yl)-6-(piperidin-1-yl)pyridazines as novel, CNS penetrant pan-muscarinic antagonists”, Bender, A.M.; Weiner, R.L.; Luscombe, V.B.; Ajmera, S.; Cho, H.P.; Chang, S.; Zhan, X.; Rodriguez, A.L.; Niswender, C.M.; **Engers, D.W.**; Bridges, T.M.; Conn, P.J.; Lindsley, C.W. *Bioorg. Med. Chem. Lett.* **2017**, *27*, 3576-3581.
- 36) “Optimization of M₄ positive allosteric modulators (PAMs): The discovery of VU0476406, a non-human primate *in vivo* tool compound for translational pharmacology”, Melancon, B.J.; Wood, M.R.; Noetzel, M.J.; Nance, K.D.; Engelberg, E.M.; Han, C.; Lamsal, A.; Chang, S.; Cho, H.P.; Byers, F.W.; Bubser, M.; Jones, C.K.; Niswender, C.M.; Wood, M.W.; **Engers, D.W.**; Wu, D.; Brandon, N.J.; Duggan, M.E.; Conn, P.J.; Bridges, T.M.; Lindsley, C.W. *Bioorg. Med. Chem. Lett.* **2017**, *27*, 2296-2301.
- 35) “Synthesis and evaluation of 4,6-disubstituted pyrimidines and CNS penetrant *pan*-muscarinic antagonists with a novel chemotype”, Bender, A.M.; Weiner, R.L.; Luscombe, V.B.; Cho, H.P.; Niswender, C.M.; **Engers, D.W.**; Bridges, T.M.; Conn, P.J.; Lindsley, C.W. *Bioorg. Med. Chem. Lett.* **2017**, *27*, 2479-2483.
- 34) “Discovery of VU0467485/AZ13713945: An M₄ PAM Evaluated as a Preclinical Candidate for the Treatment of Schizophrenia”, Wood, M.R.; Noetzel, M.J.; Melancon, B.J.; Poslusney, M.S.; Nance, K.D.; Hurtado, M.A.; Luscombe, V.B.; Weiner, R.L.; Rodriguez, A.L.; Lamsal, A.; Chang, S.; Bubser, M.; Blobaum, A.L.; **Engers, D.W.**; Niswender, C.M.; Jones, C.K.; Brandon, N.J.; Wood, M.W.; Duggan, M.E.; Conn, P.J.; Lindsley, C.W. *ACS Med. Chem. Lett.* **2017**, *8*, 233-238.
- 33) “Diverse Effects on M₁ Signaling and Adverse Effect Liability within a Series of M₁ Ago-PAMs”, Rook, J.M.; Abe, M.; Cho, H.P.; Nance, K.D.; Luscombe, V.B.; Adams, J.J.; Dickerson, J.W.; Remke, D.H.; Garcia-Barrantes, P.M.; **Engers, D.W.**; Engers, J.L.; Chang, S.; Foster, J.J.; Blobaum, A.L.; Niswender, C.M.; Jones, C.K.; Conn, P.J.; Lindsley, C.W. *ACS Chem. Neurosci.* **2017**, *8*, 866-883.
- 32) “Challenges in the development of an M₄ PAM *in vivo* tool compound: The discovery of VU0467154 and unexpected DMPK profiles of close analogs”, Wood, M.R.; Noetzel, M.J.; Poslusney, M.S.; Melancon, B.J.; Tarr, J.C.; Lamsal, A.; Chang, S.; Luscombe, V.B.; Weiner, R.L.; Cho, H.P.; Bubser, M.; Jones, C.K.; Niswender, C.M.; Wood, M.W.; **Engers, D.W.**; Brandon, N.J.; Duggan, M.E.; Conn, P.J.; Lindsley, C.W. *Bioorg. Med. Chem. Lett.* **2017**, *27*, 171-175.
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PRESENTATIONS

- 12) "Medicinal Chemistry Case Study", **Engers, D.W.**, Invited speaker at ONO Pharmaceuticals, January **2020**.
- 11) "Discovery and structure-activity relationship of a novel chlorine transporter inhibitor: ML352", **Engers, D.W.**; Bollinger, S.R.; Ennis, E.A.; Wright, J.; Wu, M.; Ruggiero, A.M.; McManus, O.B.; Lin, Z.; Huang, X.; Blakely, R.D.; Lindsley, C.W.; Li, M.; Hopkins, C.R., Poster presented at the ACS National Meeting, Indianapolis, IN, September **2013**.
- 10) "Highly Selective Muscarinic Ligands as Potential Tool Compounds for Dystonia", **Engers, D.W.**, Invited speaker at the Dystonia Medical Research Foundation workshop, Atlanta, GA, April **2013**.

- 9) “Discovery and SAR Development of a Novel Series of *N*-4-(2,5-dioxopyrrolidin-1-yl)-phenylpicolinamides, including ML182, as Positive Allosteric Modulators of Metabotropic Glutamate Receptor 4: A Novel Approach for the Treatment of Parkinson’s Disease”, **Engers, D.W.**; Le, U.M.; Zhou, Y.; Thompson, A.D.; Jadhav, S.; Gogliotti, R.D.; Lindsley, S.R.; Bolinger, J.L; Menon, U.N.; Zamorano, R.; Field, J.R.; Daniels, S.; Morrison, R.; Blobaum, A.L.; Jones, C.K.; Weaver, C.D.; Conn, P.J.; Lindsley, C.W.; Niswender, C.M.; Hopkins, C.R., Poster presented at 7th International Meeting on Metabotropic Glutamate Receptors, Taormina, Sicily, Italy, October **2011**.
- 8) “Discovery and SAR Development of a Series of *N*-(4-acetamido)- and 4-(2,5-dioxopyrrolidin-1-yl)phenylpicolinamides as Positive Allosteric Modulators of Metabotropic Glutamate Receptor 4: A Novel Approach for the Treatment of Parkinson’s Disease”, **Engers, D.W.**; Le, U.M.; Zhou, Y.; Jones, C.K.; Thompson, A.D.; Jadhav, S.; Menon, U.N.; Zamorano, R.; Daniels, S.; Morrison, R.; Blobaum, A.L.; Weaver, C.D.; Conn, P.J.; Lindsley, C.W.; Niswender, C.M.; Hopkins, C.R., Poster presented at Gordon Research Conference on High Throughput Chemistry & Chemical Biology, Les Diablerets, Switzerland, June **2010**.
- 7) “Recent progress in the development of positive allosteric modulators of mGluR4 for the treatment of Parkinson’s disease”, Niswender, C. M.; Hopkins, C. R.; Jones, C. K.; Thompson, A. D.; **Engers, D.**; Williams, R.; Zhou, S.; Salovich, J.; Cheung, Y.-Y.; Gogliotti, R. D.; Gentry, P. R.; Johnson, K. A.; Jadhav, S.; Menon, U.; Zamorano, R.; Days, E. L.; Lindsley, C.W.; Weaver, C. D.; Conn, P. J. *Abstracts of Papers*, Poster presented at Parkinson’s Disease: Mechanisms of Action, Neuroscience 2009: Chicago, IL: Abstract 828.27, October **2009**.
- 6) “The development of positive allosteric modulators of mGluR4 for the treatment of Parkinson’s disease.”, Niswender, C.M.; Hopkins, C.R.; Jones, C.K.; Thompson, A.D.; **Engers, D.W.**; Williams, R.; Zhou, S.; Salovich, J.M.; Cheung, Y.Y.; Gogliotti, R.; Gentry, P.; Johnson, K.A.; Jadhav, S.; Menon, U.; Zamorano, R.; Days, E.L.; Lindsley, C.W.; Weaver, C.D.; Conn, P.J., International Parkinson’s Disease Congress, **2009**.
- 5) “Advances in the Development of Positive Allosteric Modulators for Metabotropic Glutamate Receptor Subtype 5 (mGluR5)”, Oluwatola, O.O.; **Engers, D.W.**; Sulikowski, G.A.; Lindsley, C.W., 60th Southeast Regional Meeting of the American Chemical Society, Nashville, TN, United States, November 12-15, **2008**.
- 4) “Optimization of mGluR5 PAMs related to ADX47273”, Hammond, A.S.; Rodriguez, A.L.; **Engers, D.W.**; Jones, C.K.; Ayala, J.; Chen, Y.; Venable, D.F.; Oluwatola, O.; Lindsley, C.W.; Conn, P.J., 6th International Meeting on Metabotropic Glutamate Receptors, Taormina, Sicily – Italy, September 14-19, **2008**.
- 3) “Progress Towards the Total Synthesis of Hibarimicins.”, Romaine I.; **Engers, D.**; Sulikowski, G., Poster presentation, 10th International Conference on the Chemistry of Antibiotics & other Bioactive Compounds, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN, August **2007**.
- 2) “Studies Directed Towards the Total Synthesis of Hibarimicinone and HMP-Y1.”, **Engers, D.**; Sulikowski, G., Poster presentation, Vanderbilt Institute of Chemical Biology-St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital Retreat, Marriot Shoals Resort, Florence, AL, March **2007**.
- 1) “Synthesis of α,α -Dimethyl Silyl Enol Ethers via Cyclopropanation and A Mercury Mediated Oxidative Rubottom Rearrangement.”, **Engers, D. W.**; Evans, P. A., Poster presentation, ACS Regional Meeting, University of Maryland, Baltimore, MD, **1999**.

HONORS and AWARDS

- Welch Teaching Award (2001) for outstanding teaching in Organic Chemistry

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

- American Chemical Society (1999 – Present)
- USSF Licensed National and Major League Soccer Referee (2000-2006)
- USSF State Assessor (2004-2006)
- USSF Regional Referee Coach (2018-present)

REFERENCES

Prof. Craig W. Lindsley
William K. Warren, Jr. Chair in Medicine
University Professor of Pharmacology,
Chemistry and Biochemistry
Director, Warren Center for Neuroscience
Drug Discovery
Department of Pharmacology
Vanderbilt University/ WCNDD
Cool Springs Innovation Park
393 Nichol Mill Lane, Room 1008
Franklin, TN 37067
(615) 322-8700
craig.lindsley@vanderbilt.edu

Prof. P. Jeffrey Conn
Lee E. Limbird Professor of
Pharmacology
Director Emeritus, Warren Center for
Neuroscience
Department of Pharmacology
Vanderbilt University/ WCNDD
1215D Light Hall
Nashville, TN 37232-0697
(615) 936-2189
jeff.conn@vanderbilt.edu

Prof. Gary A. Sulikowski
Vanderbilt University
Department of Chemistry
VU Station B#351822
Nashville, TN 37235
(615) 343-4155
gary.a.sulikowski@vanderbilt.edu