

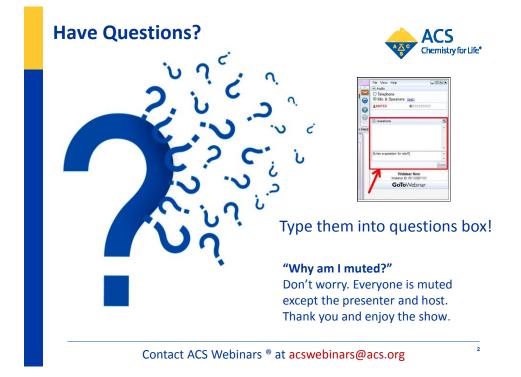


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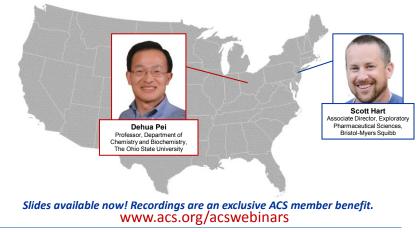
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**2016 Drug Design and Delivery Symposium** "Cell Penetrating Peptides to Improve Cytosolic Drug Delivery"



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#### Cell-Penetrating Peptides to Improve Cytosolic Drug Delivery

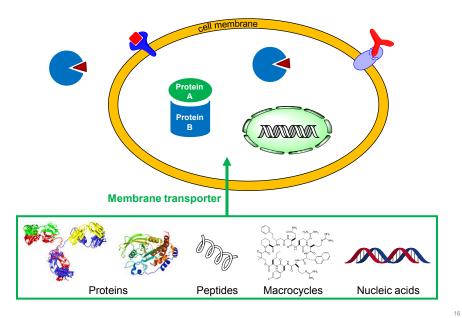


#### Dehua Pei Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

E-mail: pei.3@osu.edu

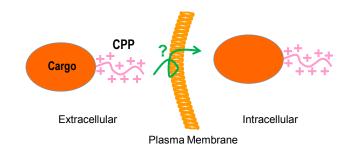
**Disclosure** D.P. is the scientific co-founder and a shareholder of CycloPorters, Inc.



#### ~80% Protein Targets Are Currently Undruggable

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#### **Drug Delivery by Cell-Penetrating Peptides**



CPP	Sequence	Cytosolic Delivery Efficiency*
HIV Tat <sub>47-57</sub>	YGRKKRRQRRR	1.9%
Penetratin (Antp)	RQIKIWFQNRRMKWKK	2.7%
Polyarginines	RRRRRRR (R <sub>8</sub> )	4.4%

\*100% efficiency = equal concentration in extracellular and cytosolic volumes

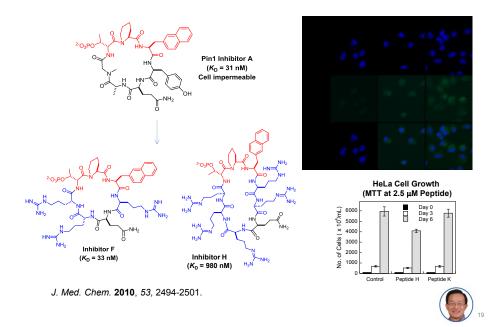
M. Green & P. M. Loewenstein, *Cell* **1988**, *55*, 1179 A. D. Frankel & C. O. Pabo, *Cell* **1988**, *55*, 1189 E. Rhoades and A. Schepartz, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2015**, *137*, 2537





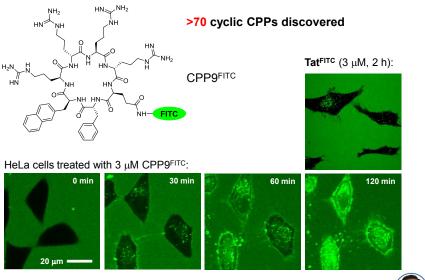
CPPs have been around for almost 30 years, but no CPPbased drug has reached the market. What is limiting the CPP technology? (possible multiple correct answers)

- CPPs have very poor cytosolic delivery efficiency
- CPPs have high levels of toxicity
- CPPs are proteolytically unstable
- CPPs are too costly to manufacture
- CPPs have poor biodistribution



#### **Discovery of Cell-Permeable Cyclic Peptide Pin1 Inhibitors**

#### Cyclic CPPs Are Exceptionally Active Membrane Transporters

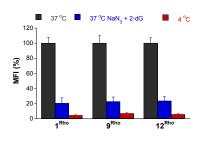


ACS Chem Biol 2013, 8, 423; Biochemistry 2014, 53, 4034; Biochemistry 2016, 55, 2601.

#### Cyclic CPPs Enter Cells by Endocytosis



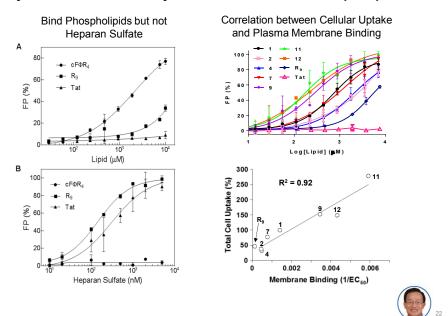
Effect of Energy Depletion

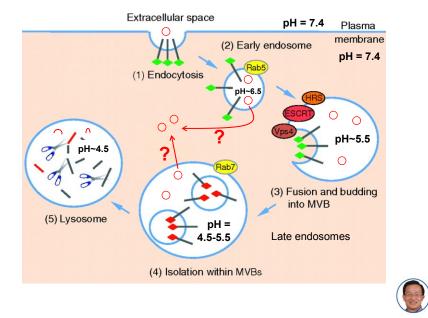


Effect of Endocytosis Inhibitors



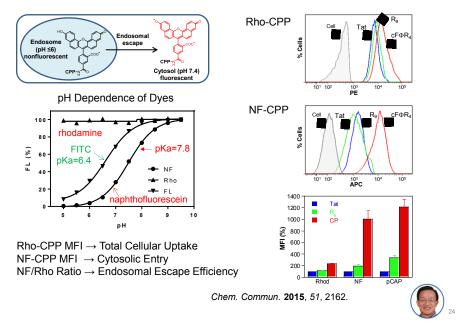






#### Can Cyclic CPPs Escape from the Endosome?

#### Quantitation of Cytosolic Entry with a pH-Sensitive Dye



#### Efficient Endocytic Uptake and Endosomal Escape Result in Exceptionally High Cytosolic Delivery Efficiency

	СРР	Total Endocytic Uptake	Endosomal Escape Efficiency	Overall Cytosolic Delivery Efficiency
1 <sup>st</sup> -Generation CPPs	Tat*	43 ± 3	23 ± 4	2.0%**
	R <sub>9</sub> *	49 ± 3	40 ± 5	4.0% ( <mark>4.4%</mark> **)
Cyclic CPPs	CPP1	100	100	20% ( <mark>14%**</mark> )
	СРР9	152 ± 13	202 ± 20	62%
	CPP11	278 ± 18	89 ± 15	50%
	CPP12	149 ± 9	402 ± 48	121%

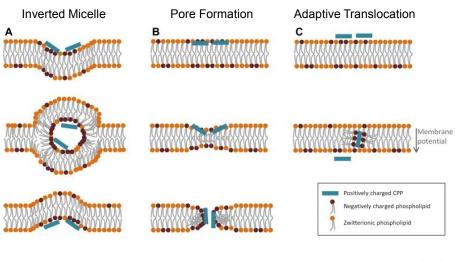
 $^{\ast}$  Tat and  $R_{9}$  are currently the most widely used CPPs (gold standards in the CPP field)

\*\*Values shown in red were independently determined in Professors A. Schepartz and E. Rhoades' Labs at Yale University by using fluorescence correlation spectroscopy (*J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2015**, *137*, 2536)

\*\*100% = Equal concentration in extracellular and cytosolic volumes



#### How Do Cyclic CPPs Escape from the Endosome?





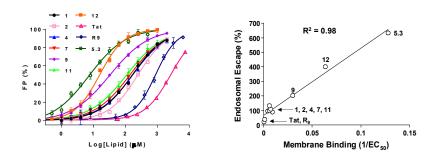


#### There is at least one key experimental observation which cannot be explained by any of the three proposed mechanisms. What is that observation?

(possible multiple correct answers)

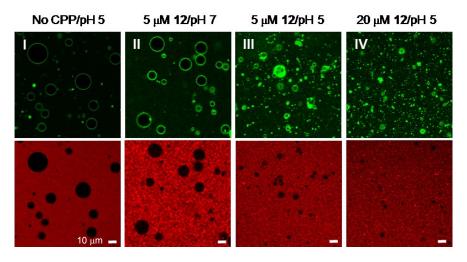
- That most CPPs are relatively non-toxic
- That CPPs have low delivery efficiencies
- That CPPs can transport small molecules across the membrane
- That CPPs can transport large cargos (e.g., a protein or nanoparticle) across the membrane

#### Correlation between Endosomal Escape Efficiency and Endosomal Membrane Binding Affinity



**Conclusion**: Endosomal escape involves direct interactions between CPP and endosomal membrane.





#### Effect of CPP12 on Endosomal Membrane (GUVs)

Green = BODIPY-Cholesterol Red = Lucifer Yellow

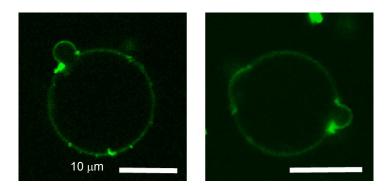


# Outward<br/>BuddingOutside<br/>AggregationBudding +<br/>AggregationInside<br/>AggregationInward<br/>BuddingImage: Strain Strain

#### Structural Changes of Endosomal Membrane (GUVs)



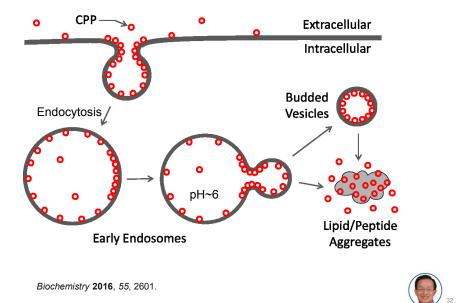
#### Vesicle Budding from Endosomal Membrane (GUVs)

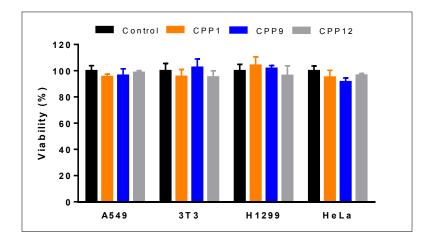


**Green = FITC-labeled CPP12** 



#### Mechanism of CPP Uptake and Endosomal Escape



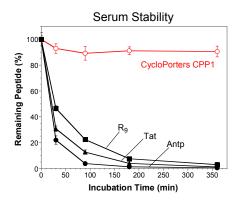


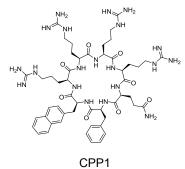
#### Cyclic CPPs Are Nontoxic to Mammalian Cells

Tested at 50  $\mu\text{M}$  by MTT assay

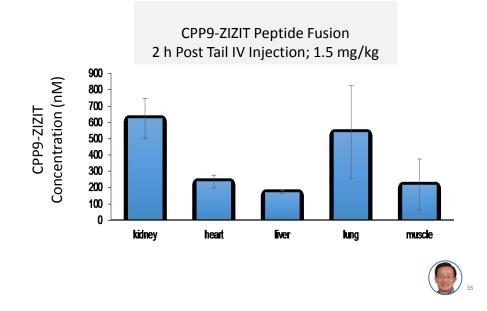


#### Cyclic CPPs Are Highly Stable against Proteolysis



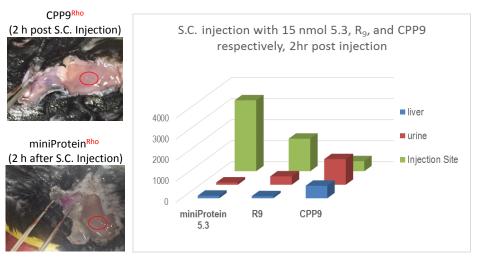




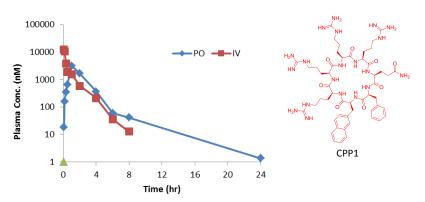


#### Cyclic CPPs Demonstrate Broad Biodistribution (IV)

#### Cyclic CPPs Achieve Subcutaneous Bioavailability



- Previous CPPs do not escape injection site due to tight binding to first cells they contact
- Cyclic CPPs do not have this issue due to low affinity for extracellular proteoglycan



Cyclic CPPs Demonstrate Oral Bioavailability in Mice

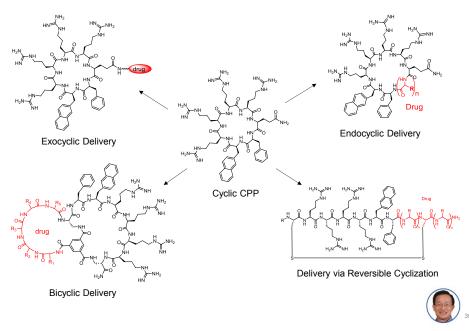
- CPP1 and CPP9 show ~4% oral bioavailability
- Preliminary data suggest that double-digit oral bioavailability is possible

	Dose (mg/kg)			Bioavailability (%)		Cmax (nmol/L)		Half-life (hours)		AUC (hr*nmol/L)				Volume of Dist. (mL)	
	C	CPP1	CPP9	CPP1	CPP9	CPP1	CPP9	CPP1	CPP9	CPP1	CPP9	CPP1	CPP9	CPP1	CPP9
IV		1.5	2	-	-	12,174	2,986	1.02	0.98	6,711	2,986	0.08	0.25	7.51	20.8
PC	)	40	60	4	3	3,156	3,502	3.32	0.66	6,357	3,052	-	-		



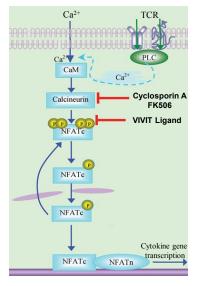
Based on what you have seen so far, what types of cargos do you think the cyclic CPPs can deliver into the cytosol of mammalian cells? (possible multiple correct answers)

- Small molecules
- Linear and Cyclic peptides
- Proteins
- Nucleic acids
- Nanoparticles



#### Cyclic CPPs Offer Flexible Platform for Cargo Delivery

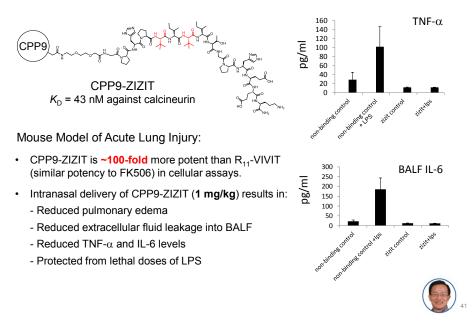
#### Calcineurin-NFAT Inhibitor as Safer Immunosuppressant (Exocyclic Delivery)



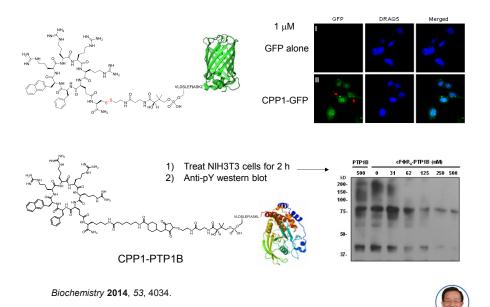
- Current treatment after organ transplantation: cyclosporin A or FK506
- Serious side effects due to: 1) inhibition all CN substrates; and 2) inhibition of immunophilins
- 14-mer peptide VIVIT (K<sub>D</sub> = 500 nM) binds to the NFAT-docking site on CN and selectively inhibits CN activity towards NFAT and a small subset of other CN substrates (L. Cantley, P. Hogan, & A. Rao, *Science* 1999)
- R<sub>11</sub>-VIVIT conjugate is effective in mouse models, but needs great improvement in potency, cell permeability, and metabolic stability (Noguchi et al. *Nat. Med.* 2004)

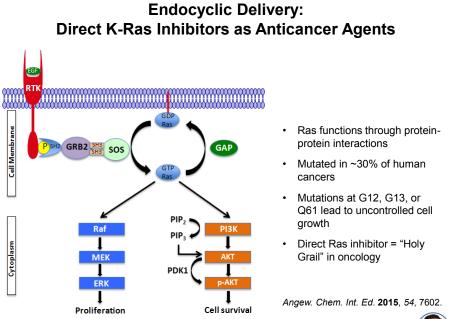


#### Calcineurin Inhibitor Achieves Pharmacodynamic Endpoints in Mice



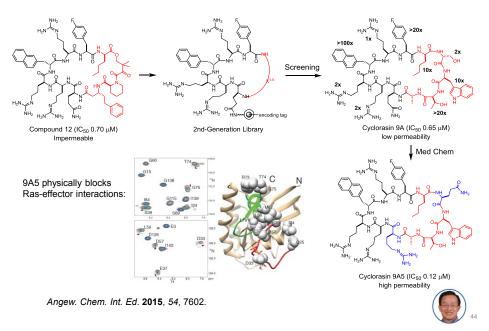
#### Cytosolic Delivery of Protein Cargos (Exocyclic Delivery)

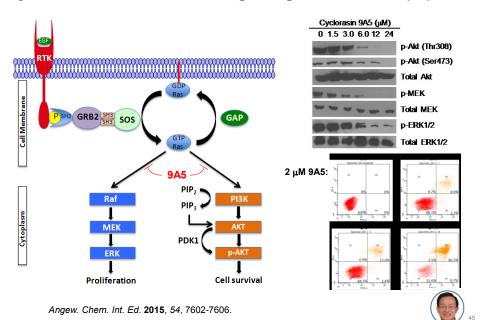




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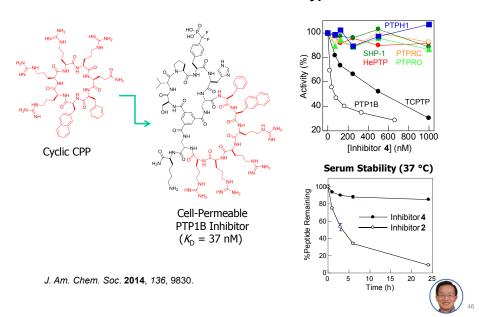
#### **Direct K-Ras Inhibitors from Cyclic Peptide Libraries**

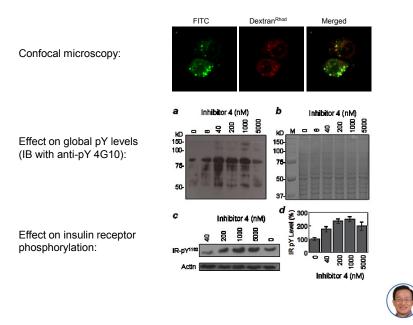




#### Cyclorasin 9A5 Inhibits Ras Signaling and Induces Apoptosis

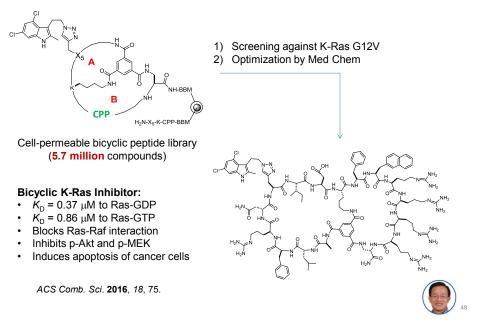
Bicyclic Delivery: PTP1B Inhibitors for Treatment of Type II Diabetes





#### **Bicyclic Peptidyl PTP1B Inhibitor Potentiates Insulin Signaling**

Bicyclic Delivery: Direct K-Ras Inhibitors from a Cell-Permeable Peptide Library



#### "Take-Home" Messages

- Cyclic CPPs enter cells through endocytosis and efficiently escape from the early endosome by inducing vesicle budding and collapsing from the endosomal membrane.
- Cyclic CPPs have favorable drug-like properties for therapeutic applications (high delivery efficiency, high stability, low toxicity, good biodistribution, and oral bioavailability).
- Cyclic CPPs offer a flexible platform for cytosolic delivery of small molecules, peptides, proteins, and nucleic acids into mammalian cells in vitro and in vivo.



#### Acknowledgments

Collaboratora

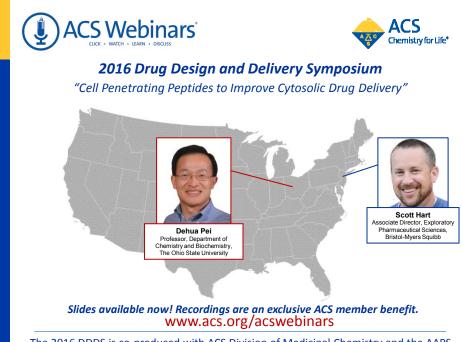
**Boi Group Momboro** 

Pei Group Members	Collaborators
<i>Former:</i> Dr. Tao Liu	Professor Jeremy Rossman (University of Kent, UK) Agnieszka Martyna
Dr. Punit Upadhyaya Dr. Thi B. Trinh Dr. Wenlong Lian	Professor John Christman (OSU Heart & Lung Institute) Dr. Manjula Karpurapu
<i>Current:</i> Dr. Ziging (Leo) Qian	Profs. Jon Davis, Brandon Biesiadecki, Mark Ziolo, & Vadim Fedorov (OSU Dept. of Physiology and Cell Biology; Heart & Lung Inst.)
Patrick Dougherty George Appiah-Kubi	Professor Justin Wu (OSU Chemistry and Biochemistry)
Chun-Der Lee Other Pei group members	Profs. Chris Coss & Mitch Phelps (OSU College of Pharmacy) Dr. Jiang Wang
	Dr. Sara Cole (OSU Microscopy Core Facility)
	Professor Alanna Schepartz (Yale University) Professor Elizabeth Rhoades (Univ. of Pennsylvania) Dr. Jonathan LaRochelle
	Prof. Hung-Ying Kao (Case Western Reserve University)



#### **Additional Reading:**

- Qian, Z., Liu, T., Liu, Y.-Y., Briesewitz, R., Barrios, A. M., Jhiang, S. M., and Pei, D. (2013) Efficient delivery of cyclic peptides into mammalian cells with short sequence motifs. ACS Chem. Biol. 8, 423-431.
- Qian, Z., LaRochelle, J. R., Jiang, B., Lian, W., Hard, R. L., Selner. N., Luechapanickhul, R., Barrios, A. M., and Pei, D. (2014) Early endosomal escape of a cyclic cell-penetrating peptide allows effective cytosolic cargo delivery. *Biochemistry* 53, 4034-4046.
- Qian, Z., Martyna, A., Hard, R. L., Wang, J., Appiah-Kubi, G., Coss, C., Phelps, M. A., Rossman, J. S., and Pei, D. (2016) Discovery and Mechanism of Highly Efficient Cyclic Cell-Penetrating Peptides. *Biochemistry* 55, 2601-2612.
- 4) Lian, W., Jiang, B., Qian, Z., and Pei, D. (2014) Cell-Permeable Bicyclic Peptide Inhibitors against Intracellular Proteins. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 136, 9830-9833.
- Qian, Z., Xu, X., Amacher, J. F., Madden, D. R., Cormet-Boyaka, E. and Pei, D. (2015) Intracellular Delivery of Peptidyl Ligands by Reversible Cyclization: Discovery of a PDZ Domain Inhibitor that Rescues CFTR Activity. Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. 54, 5874-5878.
- Upadhyaya, P., Qian, Z., Selner, N. G., Clippinger, S. R., Wu, Z., Briesewitz, R., and Pei, D. (2015) Inhibition of Ras signaling by blocking Ras-effector interactions with cyclic peptides. *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* 54, 7602-7606.
- Trinh, T. B., Upadhyaya, P., Qian, Z., and Pei, D. (2016) Discovery of a Direct Ras Inhibitor by Screening a Combinatorial Library of Cell-Permeable Bicyclic Peptides. ACS Comb Sci. 18, 75-85.



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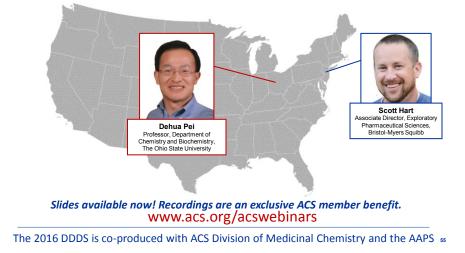
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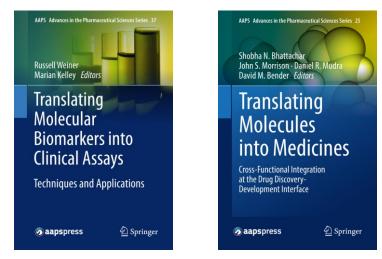




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