





## Have you discovered the missing element?



http://bit.ly/benefitsACS

Find the many benefits of ACS membership!





## Benefits of ACS Membership



### **Chemical & Engineering News** (*C&EN*)

The preeminent weekly digital and print news source.



### **NEW! ACS SciFinder**

ACS Members receive 25 complimentary SciFinder® research activities per year.



### **NEW! ACS Career Navigator**

Your source for leadership development, professional education, career services, and much more.

http://bit.ly/benefitsACS

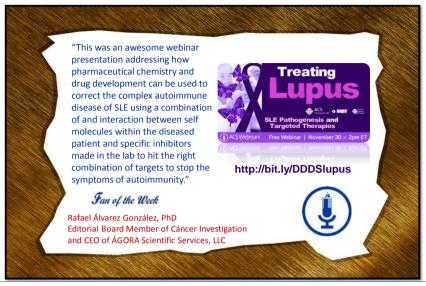
**Let's get Social...**post, tweet, and link to ACS Webinars during today's broadcast!





# How has ACS Webinars® benefited you?





Be a featured fan on an upcoming webinar! Write to us @ acswebinars@acs.org









**Learn from the best and brightest minds in chemistry!** Hundreds of webinars on diverse topics presented by experts in the chemical sciences and enterprise.

**Recordings** are an exclusive ACS member benefit and are made available to registrants via an email invitation once the recording has been edited and posted.

**Live Broadcasts** of ACS Webinars® continue to be available to the general public every Thursday from 2-3pm ET!

www.acs.org/acswebinars

# An individual development planning tool for you!





ChemIDP.org

## Celebrating 4 years & 40 Drug Discovery Webinars!

http://bit.ly/acsDrugDiscoveryArchive









# **Upcoming ACS Webinars** *www.acs.org/acswebinars*



Thursday, February 1, 2018

**Navigating My Research Career**: How to Manage US Immigration & Visa Opportunities

Co-produced with the ACS Graduate & Postdoctoral Scholars Office

Experts



Brendan Delaney Frank & Delaney Immigration Law, LLC



Joerg Schlatterer American Chemical Society



Thursday, February 8, 2018

Networking without Saying a Single Word: Silent but Deadly

Experts



Matt Grandbois Dow Chemical



Patricia Simpson University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Contact ACS Webinars ® at acswebinars@acs.org

10

Chemistry for Life®



## **Chemical Entity and Biomolecule Scientific Program Tracks:**

- Preclinical (including Discovery)
- Bioanalytical
- Clinical Pharmacology
- Manufacturing & Bioprocessing
- Formulation & Quality



YouTube video:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1DOxLBg0Ouv

Website: www.aapspharmsci360.org

## Join the ACS Division of Medicinal Chemistry Today!





## For \$25 (\$10 for students), You Will Receive:

- A free copy of our annual medicinal chemistry review volume (over 600 pages, \$160 retail price)
- · Abstracts of MEDI programming at national meetings
- · Access to student travel grants and fellowships

Find out more about the ACS MEDI Division! www.acsmedchem.org

### Women in Drug Discovery and Development: How to Succeed as a Female in Academia and Industry



February 22, 2018 @ 2-3pm ET

Session 2 of the 2018 Drug Design and Delivery Symposium



"Life is not easy for any of us...We must have perseverance and above all confidence in ourselves. We must believe that we are gifted for something and that this thing must be attained." Marie Curie is an inspiration for all scientists and for good reason as she was a true pioneer and the first scientist to be awarded a Nobel Prize in two different categories. With more young women than ever opting to study within the STEM field, we look to answer

just what it takes to create a rewarding and successful career within academia or the pharmaceutical industry as a female. We will explore insights from those in the field today to understand the technical and soft skills necessary to flourish.

Register For Free!

### Experts



Nurulain Zaveri Astraea Therapeutics

Donna M. Huryn

Pittsburgh's School of

University of

Pharmacy



Erika Vieira Araujo Bristol-Myers Squibb

Astra Zeneca







### What You Will Learn

- · Insight and real life experiences from successful females in drug discovery and development from academia to industry
- · A day in the life of each panel member highlighting their roles and responsibilities in their specific functions
- . The technical and soft skills ideal for each panelist's position within drug discovery and development

http://bit.ly/WomenDDD

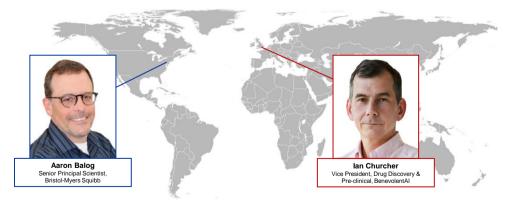
13





## A New Strategy in Drug Discovery: Protac-Induced Protein Degradation

Session 1 of the 2018 Drug Design and Delivery Symposium



Slides available now and an invitation to view the recording will be sent when available. www.acs.org/acswebinars

This ACS Webinar is co-produced with the ACS Division of Medicinal Chemistry and the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists





lan Churcher

VP, Drug Discovery & Pre-clinical,
BenevolentAl
lan.churcher@benevolent.ai

25th January 2018



# **Contemporary Drug Discovery**



Small molecule inhibition/antagonism has been a successful therapeutic approach for many decades

**Hypothesis:** inhibition of drug target affects disease phenotype



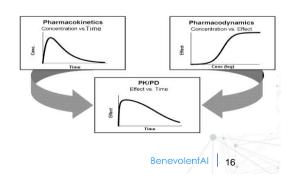




In vivo/clinical efficacy

## Intrinsic limitations of this paradigm:

- Target choice at outset of project is critical for success
- "Occupancy-based" efficacy requires sustained high drug exposure at target
- Inhibition (usually) only affects one function of protein, leaving others intact



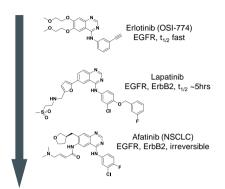
# **Boosting Pharmacodynamic Effects**



- · Compounds with slow off rates can be designed to achieve extended duration of action
- Ultimate slow off rate strategy is covalency
  - Duration of action driven by protein resynthesis rate
- · Alternative approach is to remove protein from cells:

Can be achieved indirectly with siRNA, CRISPR and related approaches

- Key challenges: delivery/selectivity





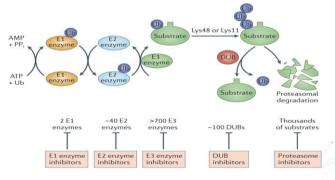
BenevolentAI 17

# **Cellular Protein Degradation**



- Protein degradation is a critical and highly regulated cellular process
- Mainly mediated by the ubiquitin-proteasome system
- Proteins targeted for destruction are tagged with a ubiquitin chain via E1 (activation), E2 (conjugation) & E3 (ubiquitin ligase) enzymes

Can we hijack this process to degrade disease-causing proteins which would otherwise be stable?



Nat. Rev. Drug Disc. 2014, 13, 889



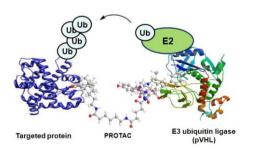
## How much do you know about Protac-induced protein degradation?

- I don't really know much about it at all this is the first time I'm learning about it
- I've read a few papers and I'd like to get more information and detail
- I'd say I'm quite familiar with the area already
- I'm very familiar and already working on protein degradation today

19

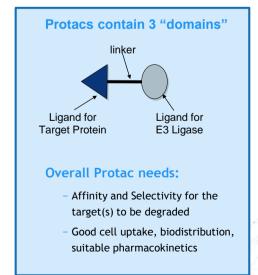
## oteolysis-Targeting Chimeras: Fundamentals of Protac Action

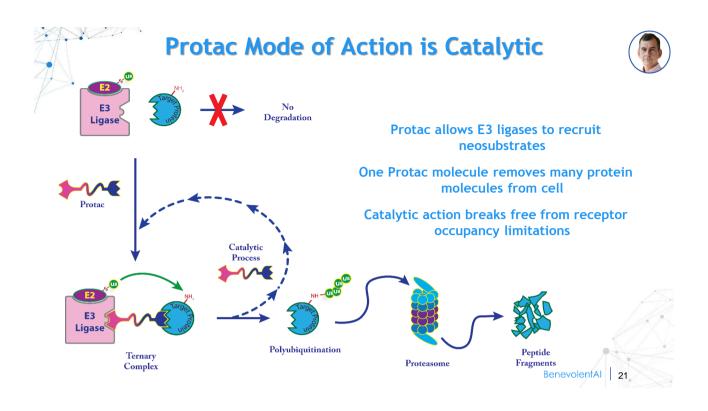


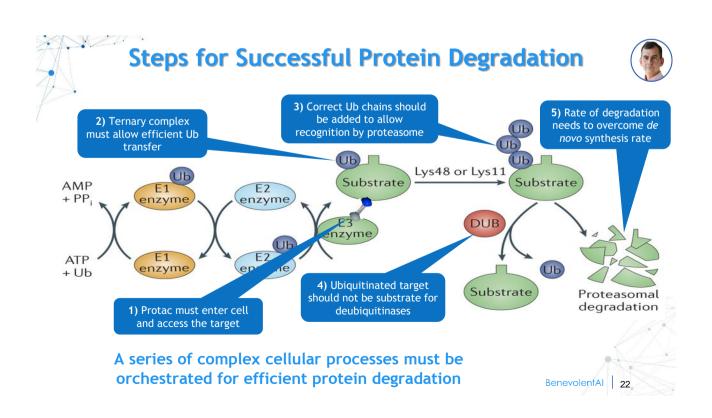


### A Protac is a bifunctional small molecule

- · Brings target protein and cellular ubiquitinylation machinery into close proximity to initiate degradation cascade
- · Effectively upregulates a (non-physiological) PPI



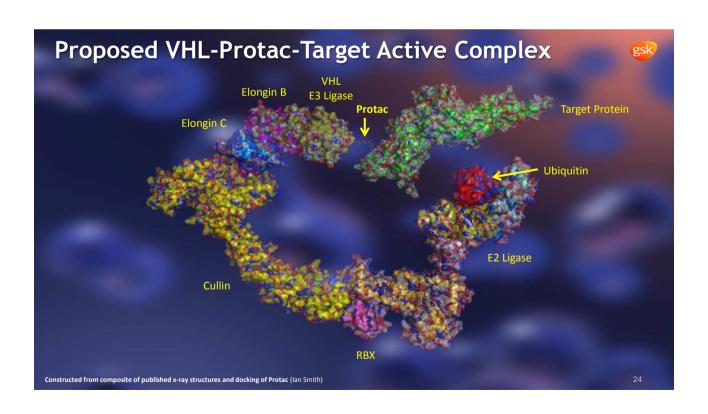




## Why use Protacs?



- · Removing a protein can give additional pharmacology relative to inhibition alone
  - E.g. remove scaffolding function or multiple functions of protein
  - Sustained pharmacological effect, even after drug is cleared
- · New approach to undruggable targets
  - An affinity probe only is required important for proteins where functional site is unligandable (eg PPIs)
- Catalytic MoA gives potential for high potency/low dose
  - Overcomes formulation and toxicity issues often seen with high dose inhibitors
- Greater functional selectivity relative to corresponding inhibitor
  - Additional layer of selectivity with potential to improve safety





## What is your current view of the use of Protac-induced protein degradation?

- The whole area could be an interesting chemical biology tool but is very unlikely to have an impact on drug discovery
- It could be useful in a handful of drug discovery applications
- The approach will find increasing use across a wide range of drug discovery applications in coming years
- It has the potential to transform the way drug discovery is carried out
- There's not yet enough hard data to judge the potential of the area

25

# Which Ubiquitin E3 Ligase to Use?



### 600+ potential ubiquitin E3 ligases known

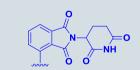
- · Low druggability: most reports limited to VHL, cerebon & IAP. Mdm2 and a few other reports also.
- Most interact with substrates over large PPI interface, often recognising charged substrates

### **Von Hippel Lindau** (VHL)

- VHL binder (HIF1α mimetic)
- E3 K<sub>d</sub> ~0.5μM
- DC<sub>50</sub> down to low nM

Nat Chem Biol 2015, 11, 611 See also ACS Chem Biol 2015, 10, 1770

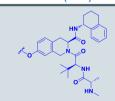
### cereblon



- Cerebion binder (thalidomide-based)
- E3 K<sub>d</sub> ~1 µM
- DC<sub>50</sub> down to low/sub-nM

Chem & Biol **2015**, 22, 755 Science **2015**, 348, 1376

### **Inhibitor of Apoptosis** Protein (IAP) Family



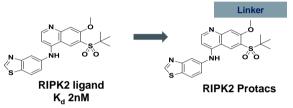
- Many cIAP binders identified
- E3 K<sub>d</sub> low nM across family
- DC<sub>50</sub> down to low/sub-nM

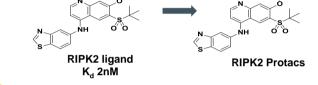
Cancer Sci 2013, 104, 1492 J Biol Chem 2017, 292, 4556-70

# RIP2 as a Prototypical Degradation Target

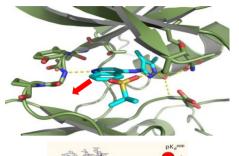


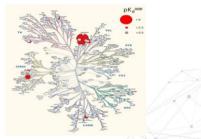
- Receptor-interacting protein kinase-2 (RIP2) is an important mediator of innate immune signalling and NF-kB & MAPK activation
  - Dysregulation of NOD2/RIP2 pathway associated with autoinflammatory disease
  - e.g. Hyperactivated in diseases such as Blau Syndrome
- · Potent and selective RIP2 binders available





RIPK2 inhibitor from WO 2012122011





Selectivity profiling (Cellzome Kinobeads) of RIPK2 ligand vs 371 kinases BenevolentAI 27

# **Anatomy of a Protac**



## **Target-Binding Ligand**

Higher affinity generally better -<1µM K<sub>d</sub> preferred Selective ligand gives selective degradation

### Linker

Set up correct geometry of complex Secondary interactions Tune overall physchem

## E3 Ligase-Recruiting Ligand

Can recruit VHL, cereblon, IAP, (+ mdm2, others?)

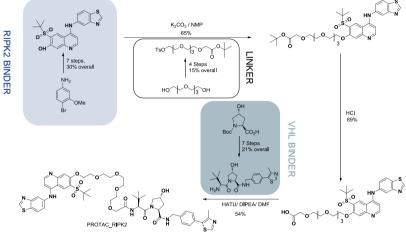
Overall molecular size 800-1500Da Non-traditional space...





# **A Note on Protac Synthesis**







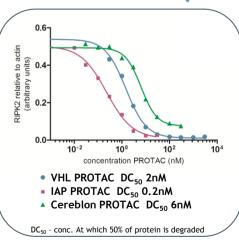




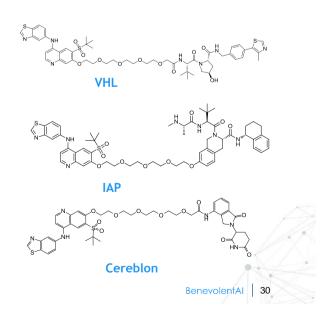


# RIP2 can be Degraded by Multiple E3 Ligase Complexes



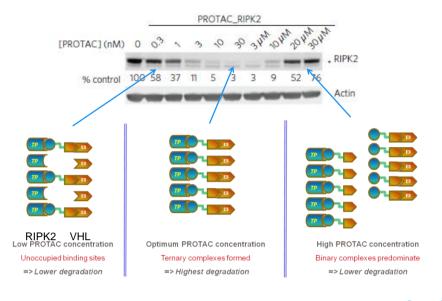


NB Protacs bind RIPK2 with K<sub>d</sub>~10nM and E3 ligase with K<sub>d</sub>~10-1000nM











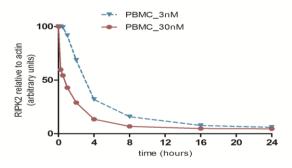
For comprehensive mathematical analysis of 3 body equilibria, see Spiegel et al J. Am. Chem. Soc. 2013, 135, 6092 BenevolenfAl 31

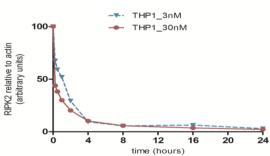
# RIP2 Protein Knockdown is Rapid Across Cell Types



### Knockdown rapid (contrast RNAi)

· Rate of degradation determined by Protac concentration





### Broad utility across cell types

- · Also T-cells, neutrophils, whole blood
- · Degradation rate generally similar across primary cells

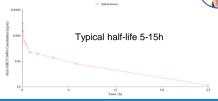
- Human Primary Blood Mononuclear Cells or THP1 monocytes were treated with Protac\_RIP2(IAP) at the indicated concentrations
- RIPK2 levels quantified by Western blot at indicated times post compound addition

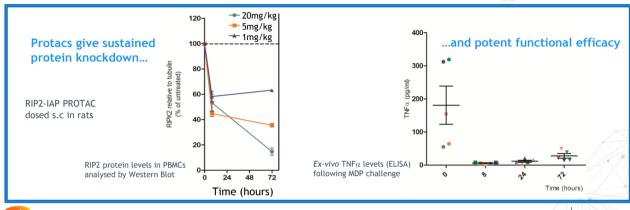
# Long In vivo Pharmacodynamic Duration of Action



### PROTACs show typical small molecule pharmacokinetic profiles

- · Long t<sub>1/2</sub>, moderate volume of distribution
- · Oral bioavailability seen in many cases





All animal studies were ethically reviewed and carried out in accordance with Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 and the GSK Policy on the Care, Welfare and Treatment of Animals

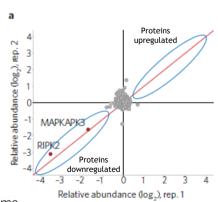
BenevolenfAl 33

# Protac Degradation is Highly Selective at Proteome Level



· Global expression proteomics shows degradation of 2 proteins from >7000 quantified

- · RIPK2 major protein degraded
- Weaker MAPKAPK3 degradation may be secondary effect
- · Control Protac shows no effect



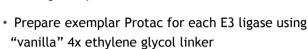


penevolentAl 34

# **Scope of Protein Degradation:**

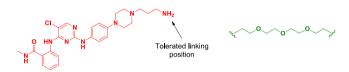


- Using a highly promiscuous ligand to simultaneously assess the degradability of many protein targets
- · Diaminopyrimidine ligand below engages 244 kinases with  $K_d < 10 \mu M$

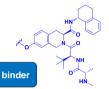








VHL Protac K<sub>d</sub> < 10 μM maintained < 10 µM maintained



K<sub>4</sub> < 10 µM maintained 66/244 kinases

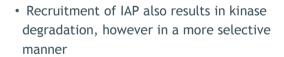
BenevolentAI 35



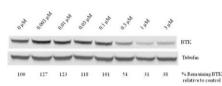
Promiscuous

E3 ligase binder

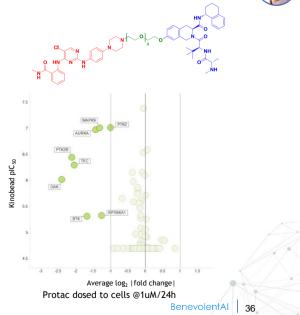
# **Expression Proteomics - IAP Protac**



- The IAP Protac degrades 6/12 kinases engaged pIC<sub>50</sub> > 6
- IAP Protac allows degradation of more weakly bound targets ( $pIC_{50} = 5-6$ )
  - E.g. BTK  $K_d$  ~5 $\mu$ M, DC<sub>50</sub> ~300nM (confirmed below)



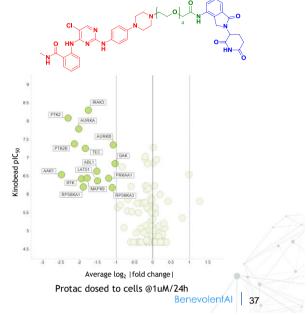




# **Expression Proteomics - Cereblon Protac**



- The promiscuous Cereblon PROTAC induces significant kinase degradation
- 15/30 kinases targets engaged with a pIC<sub>50</sub> >6 were found to be degradable
- Trend towards greater degradation with increasing kinase binding potency
  - No kinases with a pK<sub>d</sub> < 6 were significantly degraded
- Demonstration of selective degradation even in the absence of binding selectivity



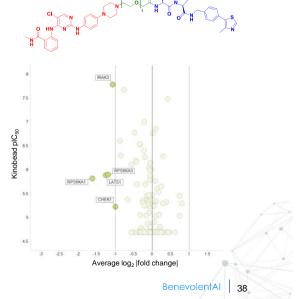


# **Expression Proteomics - VHL Protac**



- VHL Protac induced modest kinase degradation only
- Protein knockdown relatively weak compared to use of Cereblon or IAP
- Kinases shown to be degradable using other ligases appear "undegradable" using VHL
- Factors underlying degradation efficiency/selectivity can include:
  - Geometry of ternary complex
  - Role of linker in facilitating complex formation
  - Availability of suitable ubiquitinylation sites on substrate





# **Summary: Protacs - Solved Problems**



- High potency low nM-pM cellular pharmacology routinely achieved
  - Catalytic mode of action gives potential for low doses
- · Wide range of targets degraded
  - 100s-1000s protein targets likely degradable by this mechanism
  - High selectivity easily achieved
- · Range of E3 ligases utilized
  - Small but growing list of E3 ligases gives flexibility
- Potent in vivo effects
  - Despite untraditional molecules, designing desired pharmacokinetics is not an issue, and may even be easier
- [Dogma overturned...?]

BenevolentAl 39

## Where Next for Protacs?



- · Picking best Protac target proteins which will give most clinically useful pharmacology?
  - Which proteins are most degradable?
  - Where will degradation have most benefit/lowest potential for undesirable effects?
- · Designing better Protacs, faster
  - Matching the right E3 ligase to the right degradation target
  - Best linkers for efficacy, desired selectivity & druglike properties
  - Achieving more predictable pharmacokinetic profiles including routine oral availability
- Better understanding of E3 ligases
  - Expanding E3 ligases used including tissue-specific E3 ligases
- Demonstrated long term safety and tolerability leading to clinical efficacy



## What is the biggest outstanding challenge Protacs need to overcome to have impact on drug discovery?

- Chemical synthesis, scale-up and formulation may lead to high cost of goods
- The optimisation process and matching E3 ligase to target protein will be complex and unpredictable
- This complex mechanism of action will suffer poor safety and tolerability
- Difficulties in achieving oral bioavailability will limit attractive clinical dosing regimens.
- The approach will only be useful for a small range of therapeutic targets

41

# The Allure of Undruggable Targets...



- Protacs need only affinity probes and not functional inhibitors
- It should be easier to find an affinity probe than a functional inhibitor...
- Many ways to identify such ligands now exist
  - Biophysical screening (SPR, NMR etc)
  - DNA-encoded library screening
- Despite this, still few examples of degradation of truly undruggable targets to appear

## **Summary**



- Protacs are now established as a novel drug discovery approach which deliver pharmacology impossible through other means
- Clinical testing expected soon
- Protac-based medicinal chemistry has the potential to be more complex, or simpler, than current strategies
  - A new, multi-parameter optimisation challenge?
- Emerging data will start to clarify the true scope of the approach



BenevolentAI 43

# **Acknowledgements & Further Information**



Yale University



· John Harling et al

· Craig Crews et al



Marcus Bantscheff et al



And all the other scientists across industry and academia who have helped advance this new field



Medicinal Chemistry

Protac-Induced Protein Degradation in Drug Discovery: Breaking the Rules or Just Making New Ones?

Ian Churcher\*

lournal of

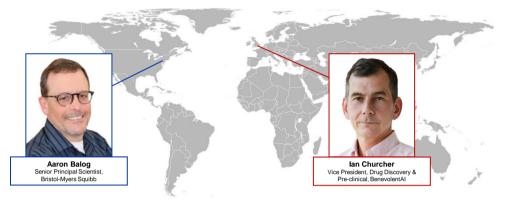
J. Med. Chem., Just Accepted Manuscript DOI: 10.1021/acs.jmedchem.7b01272





## A New Strategy in Drug Discovery: Protac-Induced Protein Degradation

Session 1 of the 2018 Drug Design and Delivery Symposium



Slides available now and an invitation to view the recording will be sent when available.

www.acs.org/acswebinars

This ACS Webinar is co-produced with the ACS Division of Medicinal Chemistry and the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists

### Women in Drug Discovery and Development: How to Succeed as a Female in Academia and Industry



February 22, 2018 @ 2-3pm ET
Session 2 of the 2018 Drug Design and Delivery Symposium



"Life is not easy for any of us...We must have perseverance and above all confidence in ourselves. We must believe that we are gifted for something and that this thing must be attained." Marie Curie is an inspiration for all scientists and for good reason as she was a true pioneer and the first scientist to be awarded a Nobel Prize in two different categories. With more young women than ever opting to study within the STEM field, we look to answer

just what it takes to create a rewarding and successful career within academia or the pharmaceutical industry as a female. We will explore insights from those in the field today to understand the technical and soft skills necessary to flourish.

Register For Free!

### Experts



Nurulain Zaveri Astraea Therapeutics



Erika Vieira Araujo Bristol-Myers Squibb





Donna M. Huryn University of Pittsburgh's School of Pharmacy



Annette Bak Astra Zeneca



### What You Will Learn

- Insight and real life experiences from successful females in drug discovery and development from academia to industry
- A day in the life of each panel member highlighting their roles and responsibilities in their specific functions
- The technical and soft skills ideal for each panelist's position within drug discovery and development

http://bit.ly/WomenDDD

## **Upcoming ACS Webinars**

www.acs.org/acswebinars





Thursday, February 1, 2018

**Navigating My Research Career**: How to Manage US Immigration

& Visa Opportunities

Co-produced with the ACS Graduate & Postdoctoral Scholars Office

Experts



Brendan Delaney Frank & Delaney Immigration Law, LLC



Joerg Schlatterer American Chemical Society



Thursday, February 8, 2018

Networking without Saying a Single Word: Silent but Deadly

**Experts** 



Matt Grandbois Dow Chemical



Patricia Simpson University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

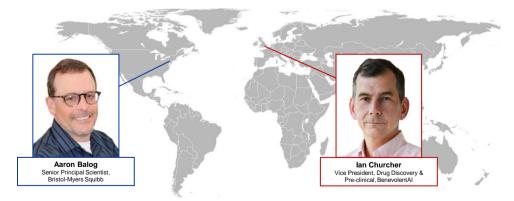
Contact ACS Webinars ® at acswebinars@acs.org

(L) ACS Webinars



## A New Strategy in Drug Discovery: Protac-Induced Protein Degradation

Session 1 of the 2018 Drug Design and Delivery Symposium



Slides available now and an invitation to view the recording will be sent when available.

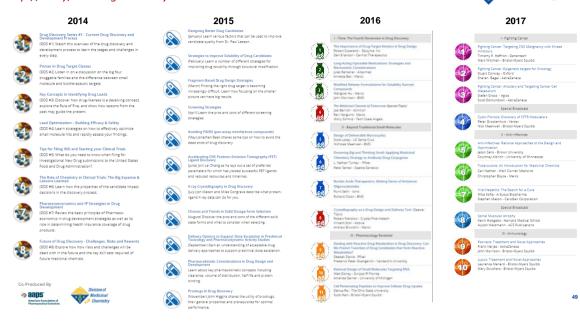
WWW.acs.org/acswebinars

This ACS Webinar is co-produced with the ACS Division of Medicinal Chemistry and the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists

## Celebrating 4 years & 40 Drug Discovery Webinars!

http://bit.ly/acsDrugDiscoveryArchive







## Join the ACS Division of Medicinal Chemistry Today!





## For \$25 (\$10 for students), You Will Receive:

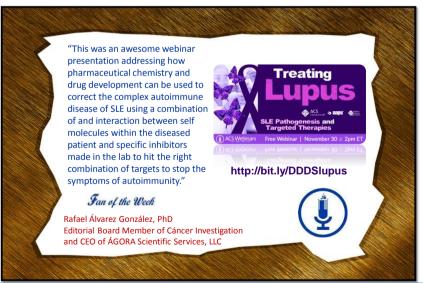
- A free copy of our annual medicinal chemistry review volume (over 600 pages, \$160 retail price)
- Abstracts of MEDI programming at national meetings
- · Access to student travel grants and fellowships

Find out more about the ACS MEDI Division! www.acsmedchem.org

51

# How has ACS Webinars® benefited you?





Be a featured fan on an upcoming webinar! Write to us @ acswebinars@acs.org







53





## Benefits of ACS Membership



### Chemical & Engineering News (C&EN)

The preeminent weekly digital and print news source.



### **NEW! ACS SciFinder**

ACS Members receive 25 complimentary SciFinder® research activities per year.



### **NEW! ACS Career Navigator**

Your source for leadership development, professional education, career services, and much more.

http://bit.ly/benefitsACS





ACS Webinars®does not endorse any products or services. The views expressed in this presentation are those of the presenter and do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the American Chemical Society.



Contact ACS Webinars ® at acswebinars@acs.org

# **Upcoming ACS Webinars** *www.acs.org/acswebinars*





Thursday, February 1, 2018

**Navigating My Research Career**: How to Manage US Immigration & Visa Opportunities

Co-produced with the ACS Graduate & Postdoctoral Scholars Office

Experts



Brendan Delaney Frank & Delaney Immigration Law, LLC



Joerg Schlatterer American Chemical Society



Thursday, February 8, 2018

Networking without Saying a Single Word: Silent but Deadly

Experts



Matt Grandbois Dow Chemical



Patricia Simpson University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Contact ACS Webinars ® at acswebinars@acs.org