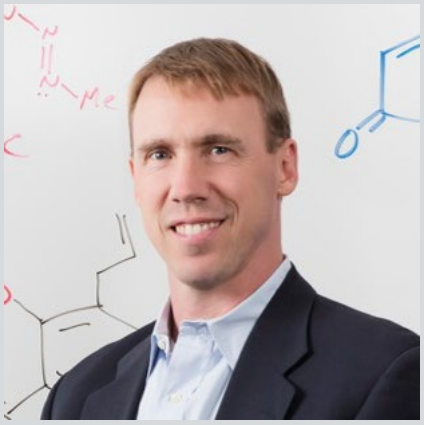
Discovery Lecture Series

Traversing the valley of death in drug discovery

Wednesday, Dec. 4 | Biodesign Auditorium | 2-3 p.m.

Only 1 in 20 anticancer compounds that begin human clinical trials will become an approved drug. Many have pointed at the traditional development pathway -- whereby anticancer efficacy is assessed in rodent models, and the next efficacy assessment is in people -- as a major reason for this poor success rate. The Hergenrother Lab has been working to evaluate candidate compounds in pets with cancer, as a way, to help these veterinary cancer patients that often have no other options and as a method to guide the selection of the human drug candidate.

Dr. Hergenrother's lecture will describe the process through the example of the procaspase-3 activating compound PAC-1 and will also detail his work to synthesize complex and diverse compound from natural products, and to use them to identify novel broad-spectrum antibiotics.



Paul J. Hergenrother, PhD

Professor, Kenneth L. Rinehart Jr. Endowed Chair, Natural Products Chemistry, University of Illinois, Urbana

Dr. Hergenrother established his laboratory in the Department of Chemistry in 2001 with a focus of using small molecules to identify and validate novel targets for the treatment of intractable disease, including cancer, degenerative disorders and multi-drug resistant bacteria. He is the co-founder and Chief Scientific Officer of Vanquish Oncology, and an anticancer compound discovered by the Hergenrother lab is now being taken by cancer patients in Phase 1 clinical trials. Hergenrother serves on the editorial/advisory board for multiple journals including *Current Opinion in Chemical Biology*. He received his PhD from the University of Texas, Austin and his BS in Chemistry, University of Notre Dame.

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This event is free, open to the public and seating is on a first-come, first-served basis