# Improving the Durability of Cancer Treatment



## Daniel Harki Assistant Professor, Medicinal Chemistry

## **CURRENT RESEARCH**

#### Using chemistry to improve human health

Although scores of highly efficacious cancer drugs have been developed and are at the disposal of physicians, many treatments eventually fail when the patient develops resistance. Understanding the fundamental mechanisms behind why these drugs ultimately fail is necessary for the development of more durable, and potentially curative, therapies. Dr. Daniel Harki, Assistant Professor of Medicinal Chemistry at the University of Minnesota, uses chemistry to gain a greater understanding of the biology of how cancer cells evade drug therapies. Through the design, synthesis, and biophysical characterization of novel small molecules, Harki and coworkers create chemical probes to better characterize those processes in cancer cells that contribute to drug resistance, which contributes basic knowledge that benefits other scientists working in the field. Additionally, their chemical probes also serve as launch points for the development of new treatments to benefit cancer patients. Both areas are significantly impactful to human health and are helping to address why some cancers can evade the drugs that are designed to eliminate them.

While organic chemistry is at the core of his research, Dr. Harki also uses techniques of modern biology, genetics, and genomics to probe the biological activities of the compounds they synthesize. Awarded a Hyundai Hope on Wheels grant for his novel insights on childhood cancer research, as well as being named a V Foundation V Scholar for cancer research, Dr. Harki's team strives to translate their fundamental research to products that can benefit cancer patients. Dr. Harki and his team are...

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## AFFILIATION

Muniversity of Minnesota

#### **EDUCATION**

- Postdoctoral Fellowship, 2005 2009 , California Institute of Technology
- Ph.D., 2005 , Pennsylvania State University
- B.A., 1999 , West Virginia University

### **AWARDS**

- Professor of the Semester, University of Minnesota, College of Pharmacy, Class of 2017 -Duluth
- V Foundation V Scholar, The V Foundation for Cancer Research, 2012-2014
- California Tobacco-Related Disease Research Program, Postdoctoral Fellowship, 2007 2009
- American Heart Association, Predoctoral Fellowship, 2002 2005
- Phi Beta Kappa, West Virginia University, 1999

## **RESEARCH AREAS**

Life Science, Oncology / Cancer, Stem Cell, Oncology / Cancer

## **FUNDING REQUEST**

Your contributions will support the continued research of Dr. Daniel Harki, of the University of Minnesota, as he and his team take a chemistry approach to tackling important problems in cancer biology. Donations will fund the necessary \$400-500K/year required to fund researcher salaries, equipment purchases and upkeep, and research supplies. Additional funding would permit he and his team to maintain innovativeness, test novel hypotheses, and accelerate the translation of their discoveries. Join in contributing to the discovery of basic knowledge while also having an impact on human health!

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