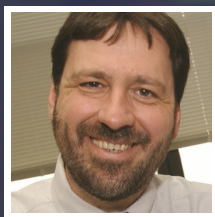


Discovery of Breakthrough Medicines for Serious Brain Disorders



Jeffrey Conn

Director, Vanderbilt Center for Neuroscience Drug Discovery Lee E. Limbird Professor, Pharmacology

CURRENT RESEARCH

Giving researchers the tools to provide the most effective treatments

Most of the drugs used to treat brain disorders today are variants from drugs developed in the 1950's and 60's. Therefore, despite the innovative research and the breakthroughs in neuroscience, few drugs have been developed to aid patients suffering from disorders and diseases including schizophrenia, Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's disease, autism, depression, Huntington's disease, and others. Dr. Jeffrey Conn, of Vanderbilt University, is the founder and director of the Vanderbilt Center for Neuroscience Drug Discovery (VCNDD) which provides the infrastructure and expertise required for drug discovery that is traditionally only found in industry settings. The VCNDD has been a phenomenal success and is now widely regarded as the world's premier academic drug discovery group leading to drug candidates that are now being advanced for treatment of disorders. In addition, the VCNDD's partnership with several companies including AstraZeneca, Johnson and Johnson, Bristol Myers-Squibb, and smaller biotech companies has advanced drug candidates towards new approved medicines. In each case, the VCNDD's programs, led by Dr. Conn, have the potential to dramatically change the standard of care and improve the lives of individuals suffering from devastating disorders.

The VCNDD presents a new model for academic drug discovery that "de-risks" new treatment possibilities. By investing in early stages of research that pharmaceutical companies may be resistant to undertake, due to their high cost and risk, the VCNDD provides strong validation of innovative approaches to treatment of severe brain disorders. Under Dr. Conn's supervision, researchers at the VCNDD are free to follow leads in a way that is unparalleled thereby...

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AFFILIATION

Vanderbilt University

EDUCATION

- B.S. Magna Cum Laude, Psychology, 1981, Lee University
- Ph.D., Pharmacology, 1986, Vanderbilt University

AWARDS

- NARSAD Essel Investigator, Distinguished Investigator Award (2004)
- ASPET-Astellas Award in Translational Pharmacology (2007)
- Pharmacia - ASPET Award for Experimental Therapeutics (2007)
- Lee University Distinguished Alumnus of the Year (2008)
- PhRMA Foundation Award for Excellence in Pharmacology and Toxicology (2008)
- and 5 more...

RESEARCH AREAS

Life Science, Neurological / Cognitive, Neurological / Cognitive, Women's Health

FUNDING REQUEST

Your contributions will support the continued research of Dr. Jeffrey Conn, of Vanderbilt University, as he discovers new treatment strategies that may dramatically improve the standard of care of patients suffering from devastating illnesses. Donations between \$10-100K will fund early-stage studies, \$1-2M will fund studies required for FDA clinical testing, and \$5-10M will support discovery and development of new drug candidate. Any gift will fit well within the continuum of studies required to bring new treatments to patients.