

Department of Medicinal Chemistry

Recent News - Development Campaign

New Faculty – Riccardo Baron: Riccardo Baron became an assistant professor in the Department of Medicinal Chemistry in August 2011. Ric was an HHMI postdoctoral fellow at UCSD in the laboratory of Andrew McCammon, working in the area of biomolecular simulation and molecular dynamics. He currently has three independent publications, including a PNAS paper with his postdoctoral fellow Nadim Vellore describing simulations of a potential epigenetic cancer target. Baron R, Vellore NA. LSD1/CoREST is an Allosteric Nanoscale Clamp Regulated by H3-Histone-Tail Molecular Recognition. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*, 2012; July 16.

Recent Faculty Awards and Recognition

- Eric Schmidt: recipient of the 2010 American Society of Pharmacognosy Matt Suffness Young Investigator Award
- Glenn Prestwich: recipient of the 2010 University of Utah Distinguished Scholarly & Creative Research Award
- Riccardo Baron: recipient of the 2010 Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei, “Alfredo di Braccio” Prize for Chemistry
- Chris Ireland: recipient of the 2012 American Society of Pharmacognosy Norman Farnsworth Award for Lifetime Achievement
- Thomas Cheatham: President of the International Society of Quantum Biology and Pharmacology, 2012 - 2014

Major Funding Successes: Total external grant funding for the Department is currently \$3.5 million per year. Professor Kuberan Balagurunathan (Kuby) recently received a \$5.7 million, seven-year grant to study heparin and other medically important carbohydrates. http://www.pharmacy.utah.edu/CoP_Information/news/Grant_Funds_Study_Heparin.html

Development Campaign. Funding from private donors has become increasingly important to build and maintain competitive research programs at academic institutions. The ALSAM Foundation has funded the new \$68 million Skaggs Research Building, the home for our research labs in 2013.

Endowed professorships and support for Ph.D. student and postdoctoral training is crucial to retain our world-class faculty and provide the flexibility to pursue innovative research. To maintain our internationally recognized excellence in research, we are asking our friends to support the Department through financial donations.

Giving Levels

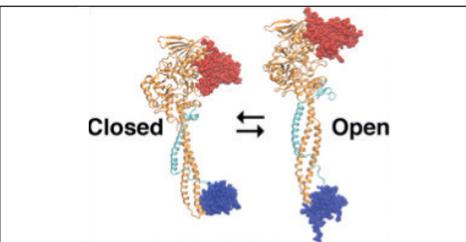
\$5,000,000–\$10,000,000: Donations at this level will be used to establish an endowed Research Institute in Medicinal Chemistry. Investment income from the endowment will support endowed chairs, professorships and research programs in the Department.

\$1,000,000–\$2,000,000: Single contributions at this level will be used to establish endowed chairs and professorships. Endowed faculty positions are crucial for recognizing and retaining our outstanding faculty as these endowments provide ongoing, unrestricted money to develop new research programs.

Other Levels: Donating at any level is appreciated and will be added to the Department’s development fund to support research programs within the Department, primarily for graduate student stipends and postdoctoral fellowships. Our annual report will recognize all donors, highlighting various milestone levels. Donors considering a major contribution are encouraged to contact the Chair to discuss the various forms of recognition available in return for donations to support the research and training missions of the Department. Donors can also make a contribution online by clicking on the “Give to the U” button at www.pharmacy.utah.edu and scrolling down to the “Medicinal Chemistry” selection.



Schmidt Lab



Baron Lab



Skaggs Research Building