



VANDERBILT
School of Medicine
Basic Sciences

Executive Director
WCNDD
Craig W. Lindsley

In Vivo
Pharmacology and
Drug Development
Carrie K. Jones

Drug Metabolism and
Pharmacokinetics
Valerie M. Kramlinger
Olivier Boutaud

Medicinal Chemistry
Darren W. Engers
Bruce J. Melancon

Molecular
Pharmacology
Colleen M. Niswender
Hyekyung K. Plumley

Outreach and
Advocacy Programs
Kristen M. Gilliland

Analytical Chemistry
Christopher C. Presley

Compound
Management
Nathalie C. Schnetz-
Boutaud

Contact Us

WCNDD
393 Nicol Mill Ln.,
Ste. 100 Franklin, TN
37067

(615)875-9770
wcndd@vanderbilt.edu

www.wcndd.com

vu.edu/warrencenter

[https://
lab.vanderbilt.edu/
lindsleylab](https://lab.vanderbilt.edu/lindsleylab)



WARREN CENTER
FOR NEUROSCIENCE DRUG DISCOVERY
at Vanderbilt University

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ONE-TO-ONE MATCH FOR NEW ENDOWED GIFTS TO THE WARREN CENTER FOR NEUROSCIENCE DRUG DISCOVERY

Did you know the WCNDD is in the middle of a 1:1 match program launched by Vanderbilt University? The match runs until December 31, 2024 or until all matching funds are utilized. Your support will enable the creation of novel technologies to address some of the world's most prevalent brain disorders including **Parkinson's, Alzheimer's, schizophrenia, major depressive disorder, dystonia and autism, among many others.** Together we can amplify the bold, interdisciplinary ideas that improve lives, families and communities. To support this life-changing research and for more information on this matching opportunity please contact Nicky Disbrow at Nicole.disbrow@vanderbilt.edu or Taylor Wood at taylor.h.wood@vanderbilt.edu. This initiative is within the [Dare to Grow](#) campaign.

AD3 Update

Applied Drug Discovery and Development (AD3) is coming along nicely! Our education team and professors are busy creating content behind the scenes for the Introduction to Drug Discovery and Development and the Introduction to Medicinal Chemistry courses. The videos for each course are professionally done by Vanderbilt's Office of Digital Education. Stay tuned for more details!

Congratulations

WCNDD Postdoctoral Research fellow, [Jacob Bouchard](#), has received a scholarship to attend the [Residential School On Medicinal Chemistry And Biology in Drug Discovery](#) (ResMed) course in June. ResMed is designed for chemists and biologists interested in broadening their understanding of the fundamental principles of drug discovery research and preclinical development. Congrats Jacob!

Warren Center Lecture Series - *happening this month!*



Yasmin Hurd, Ph.D.

"Cannabis and the Developing Brain:
A Complex Interaction"

Wednesday, April 24, 2024

2:00pm

214 Light Hall, Vanderbilt University

Advocacy and Outreach



Over the last two months many incredible things have happened for the Outreach and Advocacy Department! In February, our Director of Outreach, Kristen Gilliland, presented our game “Just the Facts” - designed to teach the effects of substance use on the developing brain - at the National Smart Approaches to Marijuana Good Drug Summit in Washington DC. Kristen was also featured on Dr. Roneet Lev’s “High Truth’s Podcast” - now out on Spotify, Apple, etc. Kristen and Assistant Director, Morgan Crowley, hosted the Drugs, Alcohol, and Student Health (DASH) students of University School Nashville at the Warren Center in early March. During their visit, they learned about the risks associated with using high-potency cannabis during adolescence and competed against each other in “Just the Facts”. Kristen followed up a few days later with a presentation on teen substance use prevention to the parents of the University School Nashville. The joint presentation included Executive Medical Director for Emergency Services, Dr. Tyler Barrett, and New York Times best-selling author and journalist, Sam Quinones.

Our educational documentary, [Speaking Through Me](#), was selected as a finalist at the Tromsø Educational Film Festival in Tromsø, Norway in March. Excitingly, the film was honored with both the “Audience Favorite” award and the “Jury’s Honorable Mention” recognition award. After returning from Scandinavia, Kristen presented at “Vanderbilt’s Women in Stem” program about how to use STEM in outreach and advocacy. She then traveled to Los Angeles to educate 3,000 high school students at Crescenta Valley High School about the effects of stress and substance use on the developing brain.

At the first of this month, Kristen presented at the Rx and Illicit Drug Summit in Atlanta. She was also interviewed by Kate Snow of NBC News about her personal tragedy with her son developing schizophrenia – most likely from using high-potency cannabis. The story aired on the April 4 newscast of NBC Nightly News with Lester Holt. If you missed it, you can view the recording here: [High potency marijuana highlights the risk of cannabis-induced psychiatric disorders \(nbcnews.com\)](#) Kristen is receiving emails and calls daily from all over the state and country, wanting to bring this program to their schools, students, and parents. ***To learn more about you can help support her outreach efforts, please contact the Warren Center for Neuroscience and Drug Discovery at wcndd@vanderbilt.edu.***



Recent Publications

[Discovery and characterization of VU0542270, the first selective inhibitor of vascular Kir6.1/SUR2B KATP channels | Molecular Pharmacology \(aspetjournals.org\)](#)

[Rapid sp³-Enriched Scaffold Generation via a Selective Aziridine Amide Ring-Opening Reaction | The Journal of Organic Chemistry \(acs.org\)](#)