

## Larry Hardy

### Why all the excitement about glutamate?

**Abstract:** Glutamate receptors are drug targets for a variety of neuropsychiatric disorders, including autism, anxiety, pain, and schizophrenia. I will discuss the basic biology behind the neurochemistry of glutamate as it relates to several of these therapeutic needs. Opportunities and challenges will be summarized briefly. Examples of efforts in this area, especially with negative allosteric modulators of mGluR5, will be included. Finally, a novel series of potent and selective mGluR5 negative modulators recently identified through rational design will be disclosed.

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**Dr. Larry Hardy** received his education in chemistry and biochemistry at MIT and the University of California, Berkeley. After postdoctoral training at UC San Francisco and University of Massachusetts, Worcester, Dr. Hardy was a member of the pharmacology faculty at the U. Mass. School of Medicine for nine years. He left the medical school to work in the biological screening group at ArQule from 1998 until 2002. From 2002 to 2004, Larry helped Dr. Norton Peet start a research services company (Aurigene) with laboratories in Bangalore, India. After that adventure, Dr. Hardy joined Sepracor and began doing drug discovery research in the CNS arena. Larry lives in Sturbridge with his lovely wife Suzanne Bouvier, has five sons and two grandchildren, and enjoys travel, theatre, gardening, and whistling in the dark.

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