2020 NESACS Medicinal Chemistry Webinar Series Speakers

Derek Lowe
Director in Chemical Biology Therapeutics at Novartis Institutes for BioMedical Research (NIBR)

Derek Lowe graduated from Hendrix College (BA) and Duke (PhD). After a Humboldt postdoc in Germany has been working in drug discovery since 1989, at Schering-Plough, Bayer, Vertex, and currently at Novartis. He has contributed to projects in CNS, oncology, infectious disease, metabolic disease and other areas, and is also known for what may by now be the longest-running science blog on the internet, "In the Pipeline"

Rebecca T. Ruck
Executive Director, Enabling Technologies, Merck Process Research & Development

Becky earned her A.B. summa cum laude from Princeton University in 1998. She received a Ph.D. from Harvard University in 2003, where she was a National Science Foundation Fellow studying asymmetric chromium-catalyzed pericyclic reactions in the research group of Professor Eric Jacobsen. Following graduate studies, Becky served as an NIH post-doctoral fellow in the lab of Professor Robert Bergman at the University of California, Berkeley, studying zirconium-based organometallic reactions and mechanisms. She has a real passion for driving Women in Chemistry activities and was named the 2018 winner of the American Chemical Society Award for Encouraging Women into Careers in the Chemical Sciences. Becky joined Merck Research Laboratories, Process Research & Development in 2005. Her team, which is composed of biologists, chemists and engineers, is tasked with leveraging its expertise in areas such as Catalysis, Biotechnology, Crystallization, Reaction Modeling and Flow Chemistry to enable processes for Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients in the Merck pipeline and developing new capabilities that will allow us to continue to do so into the future. Prior to her current role,
Becky served as Director of three different teams: Process Chemistry, Catalysis & Automation and Discovery Process Chemistry. Over the course of her career, Becky and her team have impacted projects across a wide range of therapeutic areas, including beta-lactamase inhibitors, hepatitis C virus and type II diabetes.

Nathan Fuller Biography
Director of Chemistry, Alkermes

Nathan received his Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill under the guidance of James Morken working on reductive aldol chemistry and its application to total synthesis of natural products. He then went on to conduct post-doctoral research in the lab of Stephen F. Martin at the University of Texas at Austin on the synthesis of alkaloid natural products. He began his career as a medicinal chemist at Wyeth Research in Cambridge, MA working in the inflammation group, and then joined Satori Pharmaceuticals in Cambridge, MA where he worked on a program targeting gamma-secretase modulators for the treatment of Alzheimer’s disease. In 2013, Nathan began a role at AstraZeneca in Waltham, MA in the Chemistry Innovation Centre, working in the Fragment-Based Lead Generation group. In this role, he worked on a wide range of target classes and therapeutic areas across the AstraZeneca portfolio. In late 2015, Nathan joined the team at Rodin Therapeutics to lead their chemistry efforts to apply HDAC inhibitors to the treatment of synaptic pathology in neurologic disorders. In November of 2019, Rodin Therapeutics was acquired by Alkermes, and Nathan has joined the team at Alkermes to continue to advance the science around novel complex-selective HDAC inhibitors.