Want to make a difference? Then come and work with the department of Physiology and Pharmacology. We are an eclectic group of investigators who share a common fascination with how things work; molecules, cells and organs; and how small molecules (drugs) can be used to modify function and treat disease.

Our collective research interests are motivated by the desire to make a difference in human diseases like hypertension, cystic fibrosis, heart failure, cancer, endocrine disorders and mental illness. We recently created a Program in Chemical Biology that emphasizes the design of novel small molecules that represent the first step in drug discovery. In our program, chemists interface with biologists who utilize physiological, biochemical, and biophysical techniques to study:

- Autonomic biology
- Ion channel structure and function
- CNS neuroendocrinology
- Molecular pharmacology
- Signal transduction

Graduate training is guided by our desire to equip students with the broad scientific background and intellectual tools required of today’s independent scientists. The investigators of today and tomorrow will increasingly conduct their research in an interdisciplinary environment where the vision of a single investigator must span the range of single molecules to the whole organism.

Research and graduate study take place in state-of-the-art laboratories on “The Hill” in Portland, where we are inspired by views of Mt. St. Helens and Mt. Hood.

We invite you to visit our Web site or, better yet, to come and visit us in Portland and see how you can make a difference through biomedical research.

www.ohsu.edu/physpharm
Training

Scientists in the Physiology and Pharmacology Graduate Program are working to uncover the basis for hypertension, depression, endocrine disorders and asthma, and are developing new drugs to treat those diseases and others. We are looking for smart, dedicated young scientists with undergraduate training in chemistry and biology who want to understand how the body works, and to apply that knowledge to generating new cures for disease.

We believe that scientists in the 21st century need to understand the molecular and cellular mechanisms underlying normal and diseased states, and to connect those mechanisms to function in larger systems. Our research-based program develops knowledge of molecular targets, the nature and design of molecules that interact with those targets, and the ability to test those interactions in the context of physiological systems. This breadth of investigation – from molecules to whole animals – is represented by the diverse research programs of the participating faculty. The Department is also the focal point for the training program in Chemical Biology that provides the foundation for the discovery and development of novel therapeutic agents.

Our trainees are uniquely equipped to pursue job opportunities in the biotech and pharmaceutical industries in addition to the academic career path. Recent graduates have moved on to post-doctoral positions at UC San Francisco, Harvard, Scripps, UT Southwestern and other world class institutions. Our “older” alumni are on the faculty of medical schools, research universities, and liberal arts colleges, and are scientists in pharmaceutical and biotech companies.

Want to Know More?

www.ohsu.edu/physpharm

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