

Allen A. Thomas, PhD

Biographical Information:

After receiving a PhD in organic chemistry under the mentorship of K. Barry Sharpless at The Scripps Research Institute, I worked in the pharmaceutical industry at Array BioPharma in Boulder, Colorado for 13 years. I have a solid track record of scholarship involving innovative organic synthesis methodology and medicinal chemistry that has resulted in 23 peer-reviewed publications, 5 issued patents, and 10 patent applications. While in industry, I managed multiple junior scientists in lead optimization campaigns. I was part of a collaborative research team between Array and Genentech that was successful in the discovery of a small molecule currently in human clinical trials for cancer (GDC-0994; ERK inhibitor). Moreover, I personally proposed and executed the synthesis of two novel, project-leading compounds that progressed to advanced toxicology studies (BACE and MET inhibitors for Alzheimer's and cancer, respectively). In addition to my research background in medicinal chemistry, I have extensive experience collaborating across disciplines and organizations to solve problems. While at Array, I routinely interacted with scientists at companies such as AVEO, ISEC, and Genentech to generate ideas and overcome project challenges.

Since moving to UNK in 2014, I have established myself as an excellent teacher and scholar. During my first two years of teaching organic chemistry, my students have achieved great scores on the national American Chemical Society (ACS) standardized, end of year, cumulative exams (71st and 74th percentile class averages). Furthermore, I have built up an undergraduate research group that routinely includes 5-6 students. I have continued to collaborate with scientists from other institutions and disciplines, as my current research project, which involves using the LAT1 membrane transporter protein in drug delivery, includes not only other investigators at UNK, but also at UCSF, Icahn School of Medicine at Mt. Sinai, and Northwestern. In 2016, our research team published two articles in *Bioorganic Medicinal Chemistry Letters*. An R15 grant award notification from the NIH is currently pending.

Positions and Employment

1997-1998	Access Pharmaceuticals (now Abeona Therapeutics), Drug Delivery, Scientist, Dallas, TX
2000-2013	Array BioPharma, Medicinal Chemistry, Boulder and Longmont, CO. Senior Research Investigator (2012-2013); Research Investigator (2006-2012); Senior Research Scientist (2003-2006); Research Scientist (2000-2003)
2013-2014	Chemistry Instructor, Community College of Denver, Denver, CO
2014-present	Assistant Professor of Chemistry, University of Nebraska at Kearney, Kearney, NE

Professional Service and Memberships

1991-present	American Chemical Society Member
Fall 2014	Presentation "Getting Drugs into the Brain", UNK Sigma Xi Science Café
2015-2017	Research Grant (2) and Scientific Journal Article (9) Reviewer
2015-present	Sigma Xi Full Member
2016-present	Sigma Xi - UNK Chapter, President
Fall 2016	Sigma Xi Annual Meeting and Student Research Conference, Poster Judge
2016-present	Nebraska Academy of Sciences Member
Spring 2017	Sigma Xi Student Research Showcase, Presentation Judge
2017-present	American Association for the Advancement of Science Member