

BIOGRAPHY: Barbara J. Mason



“Advances in the Development of Medications for the Treatment of Alcoholism”

DR. BARBARA MASON'S PRESENTATION

Barbara J. Mason, Ph.D. is the Pearson Family Professor and Director of the Pearson Center for Alcoholism and Addiction Research, Department of Neuroscience, The Scripps Research Institute, La Jolla, CA. Dr. Mason's work in medication development for the treatment of alcohol use disorder has been recognized with a MERIT Award from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the 2017 Smithers Distinguished Scientist Award from the American Society of Addiction Medicine, the Dean's Senior Clinical Research Award from the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Teacher-Scientist Award from the Weil Cornell University Medical College. Dr. Mason conducted the seminal studies identifying nalmefene as having therapeutic potential for alcohol dependence; nalmefene (Selincro) has recently received regulatory approval for the treatment of alcohol dependence in the European Union. Dr. Mason also served as overall Principal Investigator for the US multicenter trial of acamprosate (Campral) for the treatment of alcohol dependence, which was conducted in support of FDA approval. Dr. Mason has served on the National Advisory Councils of the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) and the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA). She has served as a guest expert for the U.S. Federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and as a reviewer of research grants for NIAAA, NIDA and the Medical Research Council (MRC) of the UK. Dr. Mason is an elected Fellow of the American College of Neuropsychopharmacology and has served as field editor for Neuropsychopharmacology, and as a member of the editorial boards for multiple specialty journals. Dr. Mason holds the Pearson Family Chair, an endowed position in alcohol and addiction research at The Scripps Research Institute, and is currently directing a program of NIH-funded research that includes human laboratory studies to screen medications for therapeutic potential for alcohol use disorder and clinical trials to evaluate the safety and efficacy of novel medications for alcohol and cannabis use disorder.