



and UCSB Collaborate on Major Diabetes Research Program

In partnership with UC Santa Barbara's Institute for Collaborative Biotechnologies, Pfizer, the world's largest research-based biomedical and pharmaceutical company, launched the Insulin Resistance Pathways Project (IRP). The three-year, \$14 million investigation will focus on discovering new drugs to treat diabetes. The project is lead by Dr. Preston Hensley, Senior Director of Pfizer's Worldwide Exploratory Science & Technology division.

Collaborators in this endeavor include UC Santa Barbara faculty; researchers at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), California Institute of Technology (CalTech), and University of Massachusetts (UMass); as well as two research and development groups within Pfizer. Physiological modeling is provided by Entelos, a Bay Area life sciences company.

The team intends to gain a deeper understanding of the correlation between Type 2 diabetes and obesity by investigating cellular insulin signaling processes and developing new, improved drugs to combat insulin resistance.



Preston Hensley, Ph.D.
Senior Director of
Pfizer's Worldwide Exploratory Science
& Technology

Diabetes is On The Rise

Eighteen million Americans currently suffer with diabetes. This inability to properly convert blood sugar into energy has become the number one cause of preventable vision loss and blindness and is a contributing factor for other serious conditions such as heart disease, kidney failure and limb amputations. According to the International Diabetes Federation, the 2007 annual health expenditure for the disease topped \$120 billion dollars.

The impact of diabetes on American lives and budgets is significant, as is the strain diabetes-related ailments put on our national health

care system. Now more than ever, medical breakthroughs for preventing, managing, and curing the disease are critical.

UCSB as a Research Partner

In addition to their IRP project, Pfizer also chose to become an affiliate of the College of Engineering and the Sciences. The affiliate program, which coordinated the Pfizer team's initial visit to campus, is an integral part of this collaboration. As an affiliate Pfizer receives assistance coordinating visits and recruiting on campus, establishing broader research relationships, and implementing student fellowships.



Frank Doyle, Ph.D.
Professor of Chemical Engineering

The Affiliate Program works to connect companies with UC Santa Barbara's research strengths in the College of Engineering and the Science Departments. Directed by Leslie Edwards, Ph.D., the Corporate Affiliates Program works with companies to meet their specific research and recruiting needs, facilitate campus interactions, streamline administrative processes, and assists in enhancing a company's visibility. "We are pleased that Pfizer is making such a large commitment to working with UCSB" said Edwards.

"This project will be an interactive effort across Pfizer," notes Hensley. "Scientists from our laboratories in Groton, Connecticut, where our diabetes and obesity research is centered, and from our Research Technology Center in Cambridge, Massachusetts, will work directly with the university and Entelos research teams. Pfizer is very fortunate to be working with such an outstanding group of research organizations."

To learn more about the UC Santa Barbara Corporate Affiliate Program, contact Leslie Edwards (805-893-3944/edwards@engineering.ucsb.edu) or Andrew Elliott (805-893-5497/elliott@engineering.ucsb.edu) in the Corporate Affiliate Programs office.

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