Meet Our Editorial Board Member

Dr. Kevin Murnane
Mercer University College of Pharmacy,
Atlanta, Georgia GA,
USA

Dr. Kevin Murnane is an Assistant Professor at the Mercer University College of Pharmacy. He received a B.S. in Biology and Psychology from the University of Georgia and a PhD in Neuroscience from Emory University. He subsequently completed a Postdoctoral Fellowship at the Yerkes National Primate Research Center, where he received his first grant as Principal Investigator (from the National Institute on Drug Abuse), and was promoted to Research Associate. He founded an independent research program at Mercer University in 2014. His research group is focused on the etiology and treatment of disorders of the central nervous system. Areas of special emphasis include substance abuse, alcoholism, Alzheimer’s disease, and Parkinson’s disease. The core of the research program is the role of serotonin systems in these diseases, particularly as it relates to the serotonin 2A receptor, which is the major excitatory serotonin receptor found in the brain. The core techniques used to study brain serotonin systems are behavioral pharmacology, neuropharmacology, neurochemical, optogenetic/chemogenetic, microdialysis, histochemical, and neuroimaging approaches in laboratory animals. The Murnane research group extends these techniques through collaboration with colleagues who are experts in medicinal chemistry, drug formulation, electrophysiology, and neuroimaging. Recent studies have focused on the development of natural products that reduce neuroinflammation to develop disease modifying therapies disorders of the central nervous system.

Dr. Murnane is an active member of the International Society for Serotonin Research as well as the American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics. He is a founding member and inaugural treasurer for the International Society for Research on Psychedelics. He was recently selected as a Regular Member of the College on Problems of Drug Dependence, and is also a member of the Council on Undergraduate Research, the Atlanta Clinical and Translational Science Institute, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the International Society for Neurochemistry, the Mercer University Center for Drug Delivery Research, and the Behavioral Pharmacology Society. He regularly reviews manuscripts for Drug and Alcohol Dependence, PLOS One, Neuroscience and Biobehavioral Reviews, Annals of Pharmacotherapy, Behavioural Pharmacology, Journal of Neurochemistry, Pharmacology Biochemistry and Behavior, and Brain, Behavior, and Immunity, among other journals. Dr. Murnane is deeply committed to bench to bedside research. He is the co-founder of DD Therapeutics, a startup company using drug delivery technology to optimize central nervous system therapies. He has been awarded several grants from the National Institute on Drug Abuse, the National Institute on Neurological Disorders and Stroke, and the Georgia Research Alliance, an agency funded by the State of Georgia to foster commercialization of university research. One such project is Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) seed grant to DD Therapeutics from the National Institute on Drug Abuse. Most recently, he has served on several NIH review panels focused on developing novel drug and device treatments for opioid dependence and overdose.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS


