



Hovik Gukasyan, PhD

In 1999 received a BS in Chemistry from the University of Southern California with an academic minor in Biological Sciences. In 2003 received a PhD in Pharmaceutical Sciences from the University of Southern California under the supervision of Vincent H.L. Lee. Thesis statement studied ocular electrophysiology and drug transport in oxidative inflammatory eye disease models. Publication track includes 28 peer-reviewed papers including 2 book chapters, and 66 abstract presentations as posters or invited talks. Currently employment as a Senior Principal Scientist, at Pfizer Global R&D, San Diego, CA, within Research Science & Technology support line. Primary area of research lies in the development, characterization and application of novel drug carrier systems (nanotechnology, targeting, and controlled delivery devices) for cancer treatment. Supporting drug discovery and repositioning processes by design of pre-clinical pharmacokinetic, safety and efficacy experiments.

I am a Lecturer on the Teaching Faculty of University of Southern California School of Pharmacy, Los Angeles, CA, and University of California at San Diego Department of Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering, San Diego, CA. I teach courses on Medical Device Materials and Applications, Physical Pharmacy, and Regulatory Sciences (introduction to drug discovery), to graduate and health professional students.

Areas of research interest are in molecular drug delivery and targeting (oncology), rational design of prodrugs, transmembrane transporters, and ocular therapeutics. Member of the Association of Research in Vision and Ophthalmology, American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists, and Tear Film and Ocular Surface society, and serve as a journal reviewer for Investigative Ophthalmology and Visual Science, Life Sciences, Journal of Neuroscience Methods, and Biochemical Pharmacology.