

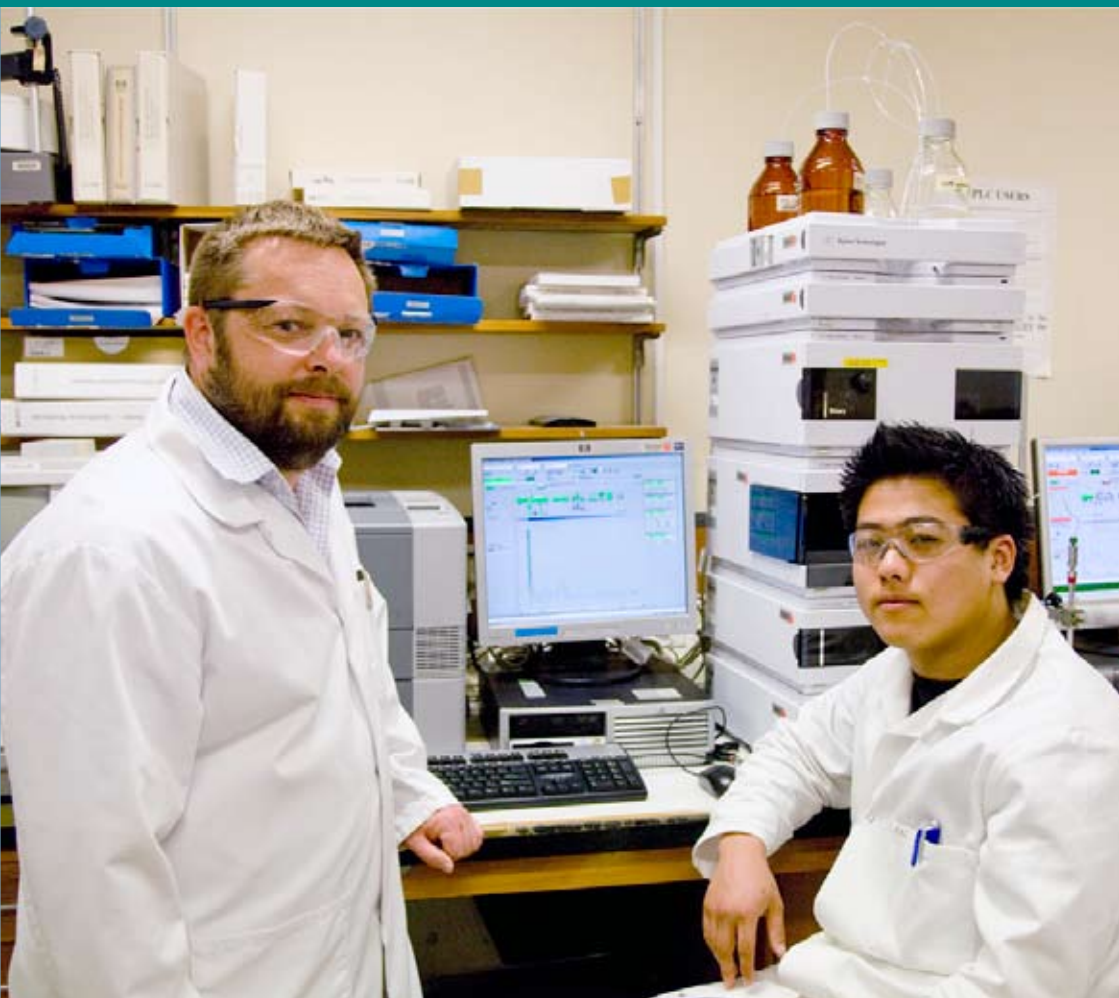


THE UNIVERSITY  
OF AUCKLAND

FACULTY OF MEDICAL  
AND HEALTH SCIENCES

# Pharmacology and Clinical Pharmacology Handbook

# 2009



## Table of Contents

|   |                          |
|---|--------------------------|
| <b>Introduction</b>                     | <b>2</b>                 |
| <b>About the Department</b>             | <b>3</b>                 |
| <b>Staff</b>                            | <b>4</b>                 |
| <b>Areas of Research Interest</b>       | <b>7</b>                 |
| <b>Courses and Programmes</b>           | <b>10</b>                |
| Science                                 | 10                       |
| Medicine                                | 13                       |
| Description of Course Content           | 14                       |
| <b>Lecture and Laboratory Timetable</b> | <b>18</b>                |
| <b>Possible Careers</b>                 | <b>19</b>                |
| <b>The Academic Year</b>                | <b>Inside back cover</b> |

### Disclaimer

Although every reasonable effort is made to ensure accuracy, the information in this document is provided as a general guide only for students and is subject to alteration.

All students enrolling at The University of Auckland must consult its official document, the 2009 Calendar of The University of Auckland, to ensure that they are aware of and comply with all regulations, requirements and policies.



# Pharmacology and Clinical Pharmacology

## Handbook - 2009



# Introduction

## What is Pharmacology and Toxicology?

Pharmacology involves the study and description of the actions of drugs and chemicals on cells, tissues and the whole body. It includes finding out how drugs produce beneficial and adverse effects, and improving the way drugs are tested to give greater benefit in the treatment of disease. The cellular and chemical abnormalities of disease states are studied in the expectation that molecules may be designed specifically to correct the abnormality. The study of pharmacology requires understanding normal body functions (biochemistry and physiology) and the disturbances that occur.

Pharmacology is the basis of much of the research and development of new drugs. The future of pharmacology is assured, as there remain many diseases for which neither cure nor palliation have been devised - for example, Alzheimer's disease, AIDS, many forms of cancer. Even when a cure or treatment is available, few medicines are perfect and the search for better drugs continues. In addition, other scientists such as physiologists, biochemists and psychologists often find a knowledge of pharmacology useful as they use drugs to probe and define the biological systems they are studying.

Toxicology is closely related to pharmacology but specialises in the study of the harmful effects of drugs and other chemicals on biological systems. A toxicologist is trained to examine the nature of these effects, including their cellular, biochemical and molecular mechanisms of action; and to assess the potential effects on human health and environmental significance of various types of chemical exposures. The variety of potential adverse effects and the diversity of chemicals in the environment make toxicology a very broad science.

In brief, pharmacologists and toxicologists aim to develop a better understanding of drugs and chemicals and their actions on biological systems for the improvement of human and animal health.

# About the Department

## Physical Location

2nd Floor,  
Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences  
The University of Auckland, Grafton Campus  
85 Park Road  
Grafton  
Auckland

## Postal Address

Department of Pharmacology and Clinical  
Pharmacology  
The University of Auckland  
Private Bag 92119  
Auckland 1142  
New Zealand

Phone: +64 9 373 7599 ext 86733

Fax: +64 9 373 7090

Website:

[www.fmhs.auckland.ac.nz/sms/pharmacology](http://www.fmhs.auckland.ac.nz/sms/pharmacology)

The Department of Pharmacology and Clinical Pharmacology was established in 1978 and is situated on the second floor of the Clinical Building (503) at The University of Auckland Medical and Health Sciences Campus.

It is one of the 5 Departments in the School of Medical Sciences. It is involved in the teaching of pharmacology and toxicology to medical, pharmacy and science students, and has many active research programmes in diverse areas of biomedical research. Major instrumental facilities include core laboratories for molecular biology, microscopy and imaging, tissue culture, electrophysiology, contractility, radioactivity measurement, HPLC and immunoassay. HPLC equipment includes multiple dual pump systems, automatic injectors, multiwavelength detectors, direct radioactivity monitor and gradient controllers.

Direct access is available to a Storm phosphoimager and a Confocal microscope. An ICP-mass spectrometer and an Ion Trap capillary LC-mass spectrometer are also available as core facilities.

The Department also houses the Discovery-1 High-content screening platform which is a high throughput automated fluorescence microscope and image analysis system for drug discovery and functional genomics.

Sources of support from outside The University include the:

- Health Research Council,
- Cancer Society of New Zealand
- NZ Neurological Foundation
- National Heart Foundation
- National Child Health Research Foundation
- Lotteries Health Board
- Auckland Medical Research Foundation
- The Wellcome Trust
- The Marsden Fund
- FORST
- The National Research Centre for Growth and Development (NRCGD)

# Staff

## Academic



Head of Department  
and Associate Professor  
James Paxton,  
PhD Glasgow  
Ext 86413, Room 3287  
j.paxton@auckland.ac.nz



Associate Professor in Clinical  
Pharmacology  
Mark McKeage,  
MBChB Otago MMedSci , PhD  
LondonFRACP  
Ext 87322, Room 3291  
m.mckeage@auckland.ac.nz



Professor Michael Dragunow,  
PhD Otago  
Ext 86403, Room 3293  
m.dragunow@auckland.ac.nz



Associate Professor in  
Pharmacology  
Michelle Glass,  
PhD Auckland  
Ext 86247, Room 3233  
m.glass@auckland.ac.nz



Professor in Clinical  
Pharmacology  
Peter Black,  
MBChB, FRACP  
Ext 89797, Room 3245  
pn.black@auckland.ac.nz



Associate Professor in  
Pharmacology  
Bronwen Connor,  
PhD Auckland  
Ext 83037, Room 3221  
b.connor@auckland.ac.nz



Associate Professor in Clinical  
Pharmacology  
Nicholas Holford,  
MSc MBChB Manc, MRCP(UK),  
FRACP  
Ext 86730, Room 3229  
n.holford@auckland.ac.nz



Senior Lecturer in Toxicology  
Malcolm Tingle,  
PhD Liverpool  
Ext 84949, Room 3295  
m.tingle@auckland.ac.nz



Senior Lecturer  
Debbie Young,  
PhD Auckland  
Ext 84491, Room 3337  
ds.young@auckland.ac.nz

## Senior Pharmacology Tutors



Liam Anderson,  
BTech, PGDip Forensic  
Auckland  
Ext 86037, Room 3297  
l.anderson@auckland.ac.nz



Rachel Cameron  
PhD Auckland  
Ext 86950, Room 3299  
r.cameron@auckland.ac.nz



Deanna Bell  
MSc Auckland  
Ext 86950, Room 3299  
d.bell@auckland.ac.nz



Richard De Grandpre  
PhD Vermont  
Ext 86950, Room 3299  
r.degrandpre@auckland.ac.nz



Annarosa Petrucci  
MSc Industrial Pharmacy, Naples  
Ext 86037, Room 3297  
a.petrucci@auckland.ac.nz

## Teaching Technicians



Adina Giurgiu,  
MSc Romania  
Ext 85058, Room 2361  
a.giurgiu@auckland.ac.nz



Gabriella Blidarean  
MSc Romania  
Ext 85058, Room 2361  
g.blidarean@auckland.ac.nz



Carrie Lin  
BSc (Hons) Auckland  
Ext 85058, Room 2361  
cj.lin@auckland.ac.nz

## Administrative Staff



Kavita Hussein  
PA to the Head of Department  
Ext 86733, Room 3289  
k.hussein@auckland.ac.nz

## Joint Honorary Appointments

Professor Lynn Ferguson (Pathology)  
Prof Alan Merry (Anaesthesiology)  
Professor Murray Mitchell (Liggins Institute)  
Dr Guy Warman (Anaesthesiology)  
Professor Bill Wilson (Pathology)  
Dr David Woolner (Merck Sharpe & Dohme)  
Mr Trevor Speight (Medicines Information Company)

## Research Fellows

Hannah Gibbons, PhD Auckland  
Scott Graham, PhD Aberdeen  
Yan Li, PhD Otago  
Johnson Liu, PhD Guangzhou  
Shu Chin Ma, PhD Yale  
Christof Maucksch, PhD Munich  
Ailsa McGregor, PhD Glasgow  
Lian Wu, PhD Auckland

## Research Technicians

Miranda Aalderink, MSc Massey  
Claire Lill, MSc Massey  
Joelene Qiao, MSc Auckland  
Kerhan Woo, BTech (1st Class Hons) Auckland



# Areas of Research Interest

## Anticancer Drugs

(Drs McKeage, Paxton, Tingle, Wilson)

Cancer is the most common cause of death between the ages of 30 to 60. Chemotherapy has emerged as a form of cancer treatment which, although it may have very disagreeable side effects, has dramatically improved survival for some cancers, particularly in children. More effective and less toxic drugs are required. New drugs have been developed locally in the Auckland Cancer Society Research Centre and collaborative research is under way into their fate (i.e. absorption, distribution, metabolism and elimination) in various animal models and in human subjects; the construction of concentration-effect models; tumour-targeted drug delivery and action; mechanisms of toxicity, and the extrapolation of these results to patients for more effective therapy and less adverse drug reactions.

## Cancer Clinical Pharmacology

(Drs McKeage & Liu)

We are a research group of eight staff and students working on translational and clinical projects concerned with the clinical pharmacology and development of anticancer drugs. Our group mission is to reduce suffering and mortality from cancer by generating pharmacological knowledge about new and existing anticancer drugs for ultimate use in their clinical applications.

Current research projects are exploring novel DMXAA-based drug combinations, chemotherapy-induced peripheral neuropathy and novel anticancer drugs in phase I trials.

## Neural Repair & Neurogenesis

(Dr Connor)

The laboratory of Neural Repair & Neurogenesis focuses predominantly on developing new medicines and therapeutic strategies to treat disorders of the brain that involve nerve cell death such as Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, Huntington's disease, head injury, epilepsy and stroke. Research is being undertaken to develop novel treatment strategies to prevent cell death, replace lost nerve cells and reduce clinical symptoms of neurodegenerative disease and brain injury using techniques such as gene delivery and stem cell therapy.

## Clinical Trial Simulation

(Dr Holford)

A rational approach to the clinical phases of drug development is based on the application of pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamic principles. The use of mathematical models to describe and explain human responses to new drugs is being explored using mixed effect nonlinear regression and clinical trial simulation. Current work is exploring methods for the optimal design of clinical trials.

## **Disease Progress And Drug Action**

(Dr Holford)

Clinical pharmacology expresses the combined knowledge of disease and how drugs affect it. Attention is turning towards understanding how drugs affect the long-term progression of disease. Dr Holford is engaged in studies of Parkinson's Disease and Alzheimer's Disease, osteoporosis and depression which describe both the effects of drugs and the natural progression of the disease over time.

## **Bioavailability, metabolism and transport of Phytochemicals**

(Drs Paxton, Reid & Tingle)

It is now accepted that a high intake of phytochemicals from a diet rich in fruit and vegetables results in a reduced risk of cancer, cardiovascular disease, osteoporosis and other age-related degenerative illnesses. Most research on these dietary "phyto-pharmaceuticals" has focussed on their mechanisms of action, but to be effective, these bioactive food ingredients must cross the gut epithelium, gain access to the bloodstream, and reach their target site of action in the hepatocytes, or tumour cells, or other organs in the body. A better understanding of these interactions with the uptake and efflux systems and drug metabolizing enzymes in the body will allow strategies to improve the beneficial effects of these bioactive food ingredients to prevent cancer and ageing diseases by diet supplementation tailored to the individual. In addition, these studies will allow the identification of possible detrimental drug-phytochemical interactions. It is also highly likely that these studies will lead to the identification of diet-derived compounds for development as a clinical agent to reverse multidrug resistance, one of the major factors responsible for the failure of cancer chemotherapy.

## **Respiratory Pharmacology**

(Dr Black)

The pathogenesis and treatment of asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) is being investigated. Airway remodelling is being studied with a particular interest in factors influencing the growth of cultured lung fibroblasts. Clinical studies have focused on novel treatments for asthma and for treating COPD.

## **Toxicology**

(Dr Tingle)

The toxicity of many foreign compounds involves metabolism to a reactive intermediate that can interact with a critical macromolecule and induce direct toxicity (cell death), genotoxicity or hypersensitivity reactions.

Research is focussed on:

1. Interspecies and inter-individual differences in the expression and activity of xenobiotic metabolizing enzymes and their effect on the toxicity of drugs and environmental toxicants;
2. The effect of drugs on the metabolism and disposition of endogenous factors that results in adverse drug reactions;
3. The ability of compounds present in foodstuff to alter the balance between detoxication, bioactivation (toxication) and bioinactivation (detoxification) of xenobiotics.

## **Signal Transduction and High Content Analysis Research**

(Prof Dragunow)

This group uses cell line models of the nervous system to dissect out the signal transduction cascades regulating processes such as neuronal differentiation, nerve cell death, survival, axon growth, astrocyte migration, and microglial activation. These cell lines (alone and in co-culture) are also used to make in vitro models

of neurodegenerative disorders and as cell-based screens for bioactive & biotoxic substances. This group is also involved in molecular and cellular studies of the diseased and normal human brain, and in the development of high-content and High-throughput screening technologies for cell-based assays using automated fluorescence microscopy, morphometry and image analysis.

## Receptor Signalling Lab

(Dr Michelle Glass)

The Laboratory of Receptor Signalling focuses predominantly on the signalling interactions of G-protein coupled receptors, and their potential role in neurodegenerative disease. We have a particular interest in cannabinoid CB1 receptors, their signalling interactions with other G PCRs and their contribution to neuroprotection or neurodegeneration in diseases such as Huntington's disease. Our work focuses on using cell models to understand receptor signalling and cross talk, as well as utilizing cells to model disease processes such as those that occur in Huntington's disease. We correlate information

gained in this way with the pathology seen in animal models of disease, as well as in the human brain, through collaborations with the Neurological Foundation Human Brain bank, and other researchers.

## New Therapies for Brain Diseases

(Dr Young)

This group is interested in understanding disease mechanisms and developing novel therapeutic strategies for neurodegenerative disorders such as Alzheimer's, Parkinson's and Huntington's disease, stroke and epilepsy. Key research areas in the lab include gene therapy and vaccine/antibody-based therapeutic approaches, understanding how environment affects brain structure and function, developing neurodegenerative disease models and optimising viral vector-mediated gene transfer technology. The research covers the full spectrum from molecular biology through to animal behaviour, with the aim being to advance promising approaches to human clinical trials



# Course and Programmes

## Science

The prerequisites for pharmacology stage III level courses are:

MEDSCI 204, and MEDSCI 205 or MEDSCI 206 or BIOSCI 203

## BSc (Majoring in Pharmacology)

A BSc requires at least 360 points with 300 chosen from a minimum of 3 subjects listed in the BSc schedule. At least 180 points must be above stage I. At least 75 points must be obtained from stage III courses. For a single or first major in pharmacology, you must obtain at least 60 points from courses MEDSCI 303 – MEDSCI 307. A second major must include 45 points from MEDSCI 303-307.

In addition, a student must pass 30 points from courses offered in the General Education Schedule approved for this degree.

Up to 30 points may be taken from courses available for other programmes offered at this University.

A typical course of study to obtain a BSc majoring in Pharmacology might be as follows:

(Note that 120 points per year is the normal load for full time study).

### Stage I

|                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| <sup>2</sup> MEDSCI 142   | Biology for Biomedical Science: Organ Systems                    |
| <sup>1</sup> BIOSCI 101   | Essential Biology: From Genomes to Organisms                     |
| <sup>1</sup> BIOSCI 106   | Foundations of Biochemistry                                      |
| <sup>2</sup> BIOSCI 107   | Biology for Biomedical Science: Cellular Processes & Development |
| <sup>1</sup> CHEM 110     | Chemistry of the Living World                                    |
| CHEM 120                  | Chemistry of the Material World or                               |
| STATS 107                 | Statistics for Science and Technology or                         |
| COMPSCI 111               | Mastering Cyberspace or  |
| PHYSICS 160               | Physics for the Life Sciences or                                 |
| General Education Courses |  |

<sup>1</sup>Prerequisites for BIOSCI 203

<sup>2</sup>Prerequisites for MEDSCI 205 and 206

## Stage II

| Course        | Title                                       | Pts | Coordinator | Prerequisites |
|---------------|---|-----|-------------|---------------|
| MEDSCI 204 SH | Introduction to Pharmacology and Toxicology | 15  | D. Young    | GPA $\geq$ 3  |

Additional Stage II courses might include:

- \* MEDSCI 205 The Physiology of Human Organ Systems
- \* MEDSCI 206 Introduction to Neuroscience
- MEDSCI 203 Mechanisms of Disease or
- CHEM 240 Measurement Analysis in Chemistry and Health Sciences or
- BIOSCI 201 Cellular and Molecular Biology or
- BIOSCI 202 Genetics or
- \* BIOSCI 203 Biochemistry or
- MEDSCI 202 Microbiology and Immunology
- General Education Course

\* Core courses – you must pass at least one of these core courses to enter the Stage 3 pharmacology courses.

## Stage III

| Course        | Title                           | Pts | Coordinator | Prerequisites  |
|---------------|---------------------------------|-----|-------------|--|
| MEDSCI 303 FH | Principles of Pharmacology      | 15  | J. Paxton   | MEDSCI 204 and one of the following:<br>MEDSCI 205 or<br>MEDSCI 206 or<br>BIOSCI 203 and a<br>GPA $\geq$ 5.<br>Students with GPA $<$ 5 will be waitlisted. |
| MEDSCI 304 FH | Molecular Pharmacology          | 15  | M. Glass    |  |
| MEDSCI 305 SH | Systematic Pharmacology         | 15  | B. Connor   |  |
| MEDSCI 306 SH | Principles of Toxicology        | 15  | M. Tingle   |  |
| MEDSCI 307 FH | Neuroscience: Neuropharmacology | 15  | M. Draganow |  |

Additional Stage III courses might include:

- BIOSCI 356 Developmental Biology and Cancer or
- BIOSCI 350 Protein Structure and Function or
- BIOSCI 351 Molecular Genetics or
- BIOSCI 353 Molecular and Cellular Regulations or
- MEDSCI 308 – MEDSCI 311 any of the Physiology papers or
- MEDSCI 301 Molecular Basis of Disease

## **BSc (Hons), PGDipSci, PGDipHSci, MSc or PhD**

Students who have completed a BSc in Pharmacology, are able, subject to appropriate grades, to advance to either the one year BSc (Hons) or one year PGDipSci or PGDipHSci. The prerequisites are at least 60 points in stage III pharmacology with a minimum average grade of B+ for BSc (Hons) and B for PGDip. BSc (Hons) students undertake courses (75 points) and a dissertation (45 points). The courses are usually chosen from the 700 level courses listed below. BSc (Hons) is a fast track to PhD. Students with an average grade B in the PGDipSci or PGDipHSci may proceed to a one year MSc or MHSci by research thesis only (120 points). Students with good marks in either the BSc (Hons) or MSc programme are able to proceed to a further three years research for a PhD.

### **BSc (Hons)**

Prerequisites: A degree with at least 60 points in pharmacology from MEDSCI 303 –MEDSCI 307

Requirements: BSc (Hons) Dissertation PHARMCOL 788 (45 points) plus 75 points from MEDSCI 701/702, MEDSCI 715 - 723.

### **MSc**

Prerequisites: PGDipSci (in Pharmacology) with an average grade B, or BSc (Hons)

Requirements: MSc Thesis PHARMCOL 796 (120 points).

### **PGDipSci**

Prerequisites: A BSc including at least 45 points from MEDSCI 303 – 307.

Requirements: 120 points at 700 level with at least 60 points from MEDSCI 701 or 702, MEDSCI 715 – 723.

## Stage IV

(Enrolment to all 700 level courses requires permission of the HOD).

Not all 700 level courses will be taught every year and you must check their availability with the Department

| Course               | Title                                    | Pts | Coordinator        |
|----------------------|--|-----|--------------------|
| MEDSCI 701/702 FH/SH | Special Studies in Medical Science (1&2) | 15  | R. Booth           |
| MEDSCI 715 FH        | Molecular Toxicology                     | 15  | M. Tingle          |
| MEDSCI 716 FH        | Drug Disposition and Kinetics            | 15  | J. Paxton          |
| MEDSCI 717 FH        | Advanced Neuroscience: Neuropharmacology | 15  | B. Connor/M. Glass |
| MEDSCI 718 FH        | Pharmacology of Anaesthetics/Analgesics  | 15  | A. Merry/G. Warman |
| MEDSCI 719 FH        | Pharmacometrics                          | 15  | N. Holford         |
| MEDSCI 720 FH        | Biomedical Research Techniques           | 15  | D. Young           |
| MEDSCI 721 SH        | Advanced Toxicology                      | 15  | M. Tingle          |
| MEDSCI 722 SH        | Clinical Pharmacology                    | 15  | N. Holford         |
| MEDSCI 723 SH        | Cancer Pharmacology                      | 15  | M. McKeage         |
| PHARMCOL 788 DH      | BSc (Hons) Dissertation                  | 45  |                    |
| PHARMCOL 796 DH      | MSc Thesis                               | 120 |                    |

## Medicine

Clinical pharmacology is taught in the following courses:

### Bachelor of Medicine & Bachelor of Surgery

| Course        | Title                       | Pts | Coordinator                    |
|---------------|-----------------------------|-----|--------------------------------|
| MBChB 209B DH | Principles of Medicine      | 15  | C. Print/P. Black              |
| MBChB 256 SH  | The Genitourinary System    | 15  | S. Ali/N. Holford              |
| MBChB302 FH   | Medical Neuroscience        | 15  | R. Faull/J. Lipski/M. Dracunow |
| MBChB 355 SH  | Regulation of Body Function | 15  | B. Smaill/P. Black             |
| MBChB 401 DH  | MBChB Part 1                | 120 | P. Black                       |
| MBChB 501 DH  | MBChB Part 2                | 120 | P. Black                       |

FH = first semester Medicine & Health Science Campus

SH = second semester Medicine & Health Science Campus

DH = double semester Medicine & Health Science Campus

# Description of Course Content

## **MBChB 209 Principles of Medicine**

Topics covered include: the concepts of receptor function in relation to the action of drugs, how drugs modify the action of neurotransmitters and hormones; the principles of drug disposition and the time course of drug action; introduction to poisoning.

## **MBChB 302 Medical Neuroscience**

A co-ordinated, multidisciplinary approach to the central and peripheral nervous systems and gives a firm scientific understanding of the structure and function of the nervous system and the clinically important aspects of the nervous system.

## **MBChB 355 Regulation of Body Function**

Integrated physiology of human organ systems and associated aspects of pharmacology. Topics covered include the regulation of electrolytes and extracellular fluid volume, control of cardiovascular function, control of respiration and regulation of body temperature.

## **MEDSCI 204 Introduction to Pharmacology and Toxicology**

(Second semester, three lectures and one computer-based laboratory per week)

A principles-based introduction to pharmacology and toxicology. Topics covered include drug targets and action, ADME and pharmacokinetics, drugs of the autonomic system, toxicity and adverse drug reactions, selective toxicity of chemotherapy; integrated clinical pharmacology; drug discovery and development.

### **Assessment:**

|                   |     |
|-------------------|-----|
| Project           | 20% |
| Mid-semester test | 10% |
| Laboratory exam   | 20% |
| Final exam        | 50% |

## **MEDSCI 303 Principles of Pharmacology**

(First semester, two lectures and one laboratory per week)

This is a basic course on the principles of pharmacology. The topics include; passage of drugs across membranes; drug absorption, distribution, metabolism and excretion; pharmacokinetics; novel drug delivery systems; mechanisms of drug action; pharmacogenetics; drug analysis; drug development and evaluation; drugs in selected populations.

### **Assessment:**

|                   |     |
|-------------------|-----|
| Practical reports | 25% |
| Laboratory test   | 15% |
| Mid-semester test | 10% |
| Final exam        | 50% |



## MEDSCI 304 Molecular Pharmacology

(First semester, two lectures and one laboratory per week)

This course explores the cellular and molecular mechanisms of drugs acting at receptors, ion channels, enzymes and intermediate messengers. These basic concepts are developed further in a detailed examination of the molecular basis of drug addiction and mechanisms of action of common recreational drugs and anaesthetics. Finally, the course investigates novel drug targets presented by the cell cycle and apoptotic pathways.

### Assessment:

|                   |       |
|-------------------|-------|
| Practical reports | 12.5% |
| Laboratory test   | 12.5% |
| Project           | 15%   |
| Mid-semester test | 10%   |
| Final exam        | 50%   |

## MEDSCI 305 Systematic Pharmacology

(Second semester, two lectures and one laboratory per week)

This course considers the modification by drugs of human systems under physiological and pathological conditions. Consideration will be given to the cardiovascular, gastrointestinal, reproductive, respiratory and the central nervous systems. The cellular and molecular mechanisms of action of the drugs are considered.

### Assessment:

|                           |       |
|---------------------------|-------|
| Laboratory practical test | 12.5% |
| Practical reports         | 12.5% |
| Laboratory project        | 15%   |
| Mid-semester test         | 10%   |
| Final exam                | 50%   |

## MEDSCI 306 Principles of Toxicology

(Second semester, two lectures and one laboratory per week)

This course introduces the principles and concepts involved in toxicology. The lectures cover the general mechanisms involved in the toxicity of foreign compounds,

including the formation and detoxification of chemically reactive metabolites and their interactions with macromolecular targets. The course describes the secondary and tertiary consequences of these interactions, such as direct toxicity, genotoxicity and hypersensitivity reactions, plus the basis of organ-selective toxicity. The course covers the toxicity of compounds such as drugs, food additives and contaminants, plant and animal toxins as well as environmental toxicants.

### Assessment:

|                      |     |
|----------------------|-----|
| Mid-semester test    | 10% |
| Project presentation | 15% |
| Practical reports    | 25% |
| Final exam           | 50% |

## MEDSCI 307

### Neuroscience:Neuropharmacology

(First Semester, two lectures and one laboratory per week)

This course introduces the principles and concepts involved in neuropharmacology. It covers the anatomy, neurochemistry and pharmacology of the normal and diseased human brain; the biochemical causes of psychiatric and neurological diseases; and the types and mechanisms of action of drugs used to treat human brain disorders.

### Assessment:

|                   |     |
|-------------------|-----|
| Mid-semester test | 15% |
| Practical exam    | 15% |
| Practical reports | 10% |
| Final exam        | 60% |

## **MEDSCI 701/702** **Special Studies in Medical Science (1 & 2)**

Special topics in pharmacology may be arranged with the permission of the HOD after consultation with supervisor.

### **Assessment:**

|             |      |
|-------------|------|
| Course work | 100% |
|-------------|------|

## **MEDSCI 715 Molecular Toxicology**

This course involves advanced study into the role of metabolism (including induction/inhibition and genetic polymorphisms) in the toxicity of xenobiotics and molecular events following exposure to toxic xenobiotics, such as mutagenesis, teratogenesis and apoptosis. The toxicity of several classes of drugs, including anticancer, antibacterial and antimalarial drugs is also studied in detail.

### **Assessment:**

|                                |     |
|--------------------------------|-----|
| Project presentation and essay | 25% |
| Final exam                     | 75% |

## **MEDSCI 716 Drug Disposition and Kinetics**

This course is concerned with the advanced study of: the absorption, distribution, metabolism and excretion of drugs; in vivo and in vitro techniques for ADME studies; and the analysis of these processes.

### **Assessment:**

|             |     |
|-------------|-----|
| Course work | 25% |
| Final exam  | 75% |

## **MEDSCI 717** **Advanced Neuroscience:Neuropharmacology**

An advanced discussion of current research in neuroscience. The course will involve critical analysis of the literature within the context of a series of major research themes. Each theme will encompass models from molecular through to systems level neuroscience. In this course, themes will be selected from the following areas: neuroscience; neurodegeneration and addiction.

### **Assessment:**

|             |     |
|-------------|-----|
| Course work | 30% |
| Final exam  | 70% |

## **MEDSCI 718** **Pharmacology of Anaesthetics/Analgesics**

This course deals with the general aspects of anaesthetics and analgesics.

### **Assessment:**

|                 |     |
|-----------------|-----|
| 4000 word essay | 33% |
| Seminar         | 33% |
| Final exam      | 34% |

## **MEDSCI 719 Pharmacometrics**

This course deals with the application of mathematical models to interpretation of pharmacological observations. Models provide an explanation for experimental observations as well as a description. Computer based analysis methods are used for individuals and populations. Typical areas of application are pharmacokinetics, pharmacodynamics, ligand binding, enzyme kinetics and time course of drug effect.

### **Assessment:**

|             |     |
|-------------|-----|
| Course work | 50% |
| Final exam  | 50% |

## MEDSCI 720

### Biomedical Research Techniques

Introduction to a broad base of research techniques ranging from tissue culture through microcopy to gene cloning and RNA interference. Emphasis is on theoretical basis, application and interpretation.

#### Assessment:

|             |     |
|-------------|-----|
| Course work | 60% |
| Lab test    | 40% |

## MEDSCI 721 Advanced Toxicology

The course addresses current issues and recent advances in toxicology. This course is aimed primarily at students wishing to undertake research in a field related to toxicology.

#### Assessment:

|             |      |
|-------------|------|
| Course work | 100% |
|-------------|------|

## MEDSCI 722 Clinical Pharmacology

This course deals with therapeutic drug monitoring and clinical pharmacokinetics; disease progress and variability in drug response; adverse drug reactions; pharmacoeconomics and clinical trial evaluation. Drug disposition and action in the elderly, young and in pregnancy will also be considered. Emphasis is placed on the use of medicines in humans and application of clinical pharmacology to drug development.

#### Assessment:

|             |     |
|-------------|-----|
| Course work | 25% |
| Final exam  | 75% |

## MEDSCI 723 Cancer Pharmacology

This course focuses on the clinical pharmacology and development of drugs for treating cancer. The course deals with the main classes of anticancer drugs, including alkylating agents, platinum-based drugs, antimetabolites, topoisomerase-interactive drugs, antimicrotubule agents, targeted therapies and vascular targeting drugs. Other topics include the pharmacological basis of cancer chemotherapy, pharmacological variability and individualisation of cancer therapy, oncology clinical trials, drug interactions and combination chemotherapy, and selected research topics.

#### Assessment:

|             |     |
|-------------|-----|
| Course work | 40% |
| Final exam  | 60% |

## BSc (Hons) in Pharmacology

Students must undertake 75 points in courses from the 700 level pharmacology courses and complete a 45 point dissertation of a research project by the end of the second semester.

## Diploma in Pharmacology

Pharmacology courses (Stage III) may also be taken as part of the Diploma in Science (DipSci) and (stage IV courses) the postgraduate Diploma in Science (PGDipSci). Students are referred to the current University Calendar for further information regarding these diplomas.

## PGDipSci or PGDipHSci

At least 60 points from MEDSCI 701 (or 702), 715-723, and up to 60 points from other 700 level courses as approved by Head of Department.

## MSc or MHS

120 point Masters thesis in pharmacology

# Lecture and Laboratory Timetable

F or S = First or Second Semester

H = Medical and Health Sciences Campus

## **MEDSCI 204 SH**

**Lectures: Tues / Wed / Thurs 7:55 am - 8:45am**

\*Note: Labs are done online

## **MEDSCI 303 FH**

**Lectures: Tues / Wed 7:55am - 8:45am**

**plus one of the following Laboratories:**

Stream i Tuesday 10am - 1pm

Stream ii Wednesday 10am - 1pm

Stream iii Wednesday 3pm - 6pm

## **MEDSCI 304 FH**

**Lectures: Thurs / Fri 1pm - 2pm**

**plus one of the following Laboratories:**

Stream i Friday 10am - 1pm

Stream ii Friday 3pm - 6pm

## **MEDSCI 305 SH**

**Lectures: Thurs / Fri 7:55am - 8:45am**

**plus one of the following Laboratories:**

Stream i Thursday 10am - 1pm

Stream ii Thursday 3pm - 6pm

Stream iii Friday 10am - 1pm

## **MEDSCI 306 SH**

**Lectures: Mon / Thurs 9am - 10am**

**plus one of the following Laboratories:**

Stream i Monday 10am - 1pm

Stream ii Monday 2pm - 5pm

## **MEDSCI 307 FH**

**Lectures: Mon / Thurs 9am - 10am**

**plus one of the following Laboratories:**

Stream i Monday 10am - 1pm

Stream ii Monday 2pm - 5pm

# Possible Careers

The study of the way in which drugs work is the basis for a number of career possibilities. Some of these are briefly listed below and give examples of the opportunities available.

## Teaching and Research in Higher Educational Institutions

In New Zealand most teachers of pharmacology are concerned with training students for the medical, veterinary and pharmaceutical professions. Pharmacology is also taught to science students at the University of Auckland and University of Otago. It should be noted that appointment to a university teaching post usually requires the possession of a research degree or equivalent experience.

## Biotechnology and Pharmaceutical Research and Development (R and D)

The discovery and development of new and better medicines for the treatment of diseases in man and animals, as well as chemicals for food processing and agricultural application requires pharmacologists as part of the multi-disciplinary research and development teams. The pharmaceutical industry is a major source of employment opportunities but this mostly occurs overseas in Europe, the US and also Japan. In New Zealand pharmaceutical research is mainly confined to clinical trials with little basic pharmacological research being undertaken. However a number of small Biotech companies have started in New Zealand and offer some career opportunities. Pharmacologists can also find key roles in the medical, regulatory and marketing divisions of the pharmaceutical industry in New Zealand.

## Clinical Teaching and Research

Medically qualified clinical pharmacologists are employed by pharmaceutical companies for evaluating drug activity in patients. In these studies, their work is supported by non-clinically qualified graduates and non-graduate technicians who contribute to the laboratory aspects of the clinical studies. Increasingly, more offices of multinational pharmaceutical companies and clinical research organisations are offering posts for clinical research assistants.

## Government Department and Research Institutions

A number of opportunities are available for work in Government or government-sponsored research institutions. Examples of the type of work available are: research and development studies, assessment of the cost and safety of medicines and advisory and safety aspects of chemicals used in the food processing and agricultural industries. In addition there are a number of private research institutions and companies, such as Neuronz, Genesis Research and Development Corporation, The Cancer Research Laboratory (sponsored by the New Zealand Cancer Society) in Auckland, or the Mallagan Research Institution in Wellington which can provide research opportunities for pharmacologists.

*continued...*

## **Medical Publishing And Drug Information**

A background in pharmacology and toxicology is ideal for entry into medical publishing and drug information dissemination. There are many opportunities in this expanding field. For example, Adis International is an international publishing and drug information company which has its headquarters at Mairangi Bay in Auckland.

## **Toxicology**

A pharmacology/toxicology qualification is one of the principal entry routes into employment as a toxicologist. The training and ability to appreciate and measure the many aspects involved in the assessment of drug action and the adverse effects of chemicals forms an ideal basis for a career in toxicology. Toxicologists are employed in all the career categories mentioned above. The increasing use of food additives and agricultural chemical products, and increasing environmental hazards arising from pollution provide additional areas of career employment.

# The Academic Year – 2009

## **Semester 1 – 2009**

|                            |                                  |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Semester 1 Begins          | Monday 2 March                   |
| Mid Semester /Easter Break | Monday 6 April – Friday 17 April |
| ANZAC Day                  | Saturday 25 April                |
| Graduation                 | Thursday 30 April - Friday 8 May |
| Queen's Birthday           | Monday 1 June                    |
| Lectures End               | Saturday 6 June                  |
| Study break/Exams          | Saturday 6 June - Monday 29 June |
| Semester 1 Ends            | Monday 29 June                   |

**Inter Semester Break** Tuesday 30 June - Saturday 18 July

## **Semester 2 – 2009**

|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| Semester 2 Begins  | Monday 20 July                                 |
| Mid Semester Break | Monday 31 August - Saturday 12 September       |
| Graduation         | Tuesday 22 September and Thursday 24 September |
| Lectures End       | Saturday 24 October                            |
| Study break/Exams  | Saturday 24 October - Monday 16 November       |
| Labour Day         | Monday 26 October                              |
| Semester 2 Ends    | Monday 16 November                             |

## **Semester 1 – 2010**

Semester 1 Begins Monday 1 March 2010



**THE UNIVERSITY  
OF AUCKLAND**

**FACULTY OF MEDICAL  
AND HEALTH SCIENCES**

**Contact**

Department of Pharmacology and  
Clinical Pharmacology  
School of Medical Sciences  
The University of Auckland  
Private Bag 92019  
Auckland 1142, New Zealand

**0800 61 62 63**

**Phone:** +64 9 373 7599 ext 86733

**Fax:** +64 9 373 7090

**Web:** [www.fmhs.auckland.ac.nz/sms/pharmacology](http://www.fmhs.auckland.ac.nz/sms/pharmacology)