

Profile

I am an entrepreneurial management professional with particular expertise in the design and execution of **corporate strategy, partnering, intellectual property and product development** programs for start-ups, small companies and new business units within large companies. My diverse experience and multi-factorial skill set allows me to effectively and efficiently operate companies in a virtual mode to optimize resource use and maximize stakeholder value and ROI.

My key attributes and experience include:

- 18 years (**the last 7 years as CEO**) successfully leading strategy; partnering; applied research; product development; and intellectual property programs in the US and Australian biotech and pharmaceutical industries.
- Extensive interactions worldwide with investors, banks, M&A candidates, collaborators, licensees, contract research organizations; attorneys; regulators; customers and other stakeholders.
- Proven ability to effect meaningful corporate change and align technical programs with corporate strategic and financial objectives.
- Exceptional analytical, organizational, writing, communication and presentation skills.
- **Eastman Chemical Company (Fortune 500) Business Builder Award, 2004.**

Professional Experience

Verva Pharmaceuticals Ltd. (Melbourne, VIC)

Dec 07 - present

CEO

Verva is a public but unlisted pharmaceutical company developing novel therapies to treat diabetes and obesity. Verva's lead product, VVP808, is a novel, non-TZD, non-PPAR-modulating insulin sensitizer that successfully completed phase 2a clinical proof-of-concept testing as a treatment for type 2 diabetes. Verva's portfolio includes a powerful discovery platform and a valuable preclinical asset portfolio in diabetes and obesity (www.vervapharma.com). Operating in a virtual mode I have designed and implemented a product-focused corporate strategy and business development program that has secured multiple rounds of financing for Verva and generated strong international interest in Verva's diabetes portfolio and platform. In 2009, I completed the license of aspects of one of Verva's obesity programs to Isis Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (NASDAQ: ISIS).

Adipogen Pharmaceuticals Pty Ltd. (Brisbane, QLD)

Nov 05 - Dec 07

CEO

Adipogen was a small Australian pharmaceutical company developing novel therapies to prevent and treat obesity. Operating in a completely virtual mode, I drove the Company's transition from an *in vitro* stage academic project into a legitimate corporate entity with *in vivo* proof-of-concept of the core technologies and a research and development collaboration with ISIS Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (Carlsbad, California). In December 2007 Adipogen merged into Verva Pharmaceuticals Ltd.

Queensland BioCapital Funds Pty Ltd. (Brisbane, QLD)

Aug 05 - Dec 07

Technical and Commercial Diligence Consultant

Contracted as needed to undertake detailed technical, commercial and strategic due diligence on companies, products and technologies of potential investment, merger or acquisition interest to QBF.

Eastman Chemical Company (Kingsport, TN)

Jan 04 - Dec 05

Corporate Strategy & Product Development Contractor

Contracted to Eastman Chemical Company (NYSE: EMN, Fortune 500) to help evaluate and advance their drug delivery technologies. As the sole participant with pharmaceutical industry experience, I was utilized by Eastman in diverse corporate and technology areas, including: business plan development; market analysis/competitive surveillance; technology diligence; partnering, licensing and acquisition strategies; business development (including Abbott, BMS, GSK, Pfizer); preclinical and clinical development plans; and advising the Eastman Ventures group on specific investments.

V-mAb Inc. & V-Biopharm Inc. (San Diego, CA)

Sep 02 - Dec 03

Co-Founder

Co-founded a group to attempt the acquisition of a French producer of therapeutic and diagnostic monoclonal antibodies. Conducted a detailed review of the therapeutic areas and competing monoclonal antibody products; performed on-site due diligence; reviewed all technology, clinical documentation and intellectual property; evaluated manufacturing and production capabilities (Besançon, France and Shanghai, China); assessed project feasibility with investment banks and scientific advisors. *Executed a letter-of-intent, but withdrew the offer due to intellectual property concerns.*

Ontogen Corporation (Carlsbad, CA)

Oct 01 - Nov 02

Director, Corporate Development (Oct 01-Nov 02)

Led the group responsible for all business development and licensing, competitive surveillance, market estimation, strategic planning and organizational development activities. Simultaneously provided detailed assistance with intellectual property and reviewed all corporate documentation. *The Corporate Development group delivered 3 multi-million dollar term sheets.*

Acting Director, Product Development (Jan 02-Nov 02)

Conducted all preclinical and clinical pharmacokinetic analyses; coordinated development of the phase II/III clinical plan for ONT-093 in two new indications; identified a significant pharmacokinetic interaction between ONT-093 and a pharmaceutical excipient (Cremophor®); collaborated with the Director, Clinical Operations to undertake an international clinical site audit, prepare protocol revisions and rewrite the Investigator's Brochure.

AvMax, Inc. (So. San Francisco, CA)

Jan 95 - Oct 01

Director of Drug Metabolism (Jan 95-Oct 01)

Directed the group that successfully screened GRAS compounds, food additives and novel synthetic compounds as inhibitors of CYP, UGT and GST enzymes; designed, implemented and/or analyzed 7 clinical studies (1 US IND) evaluating metabolic inhibitors as oral bioavailability enhancers. Managed the intellectual property portfolio.

Acting Director of Business Development (Jun 00-Oct 01)

Successfully presented AvMax technology to a diverse range of pharmaceutical and drug delivery companies, resulting in one fully-funded, research collaboration and advanced discussions with a major pharmaceutical company.

Project leader, AvMax Joint Venture with Elan (Ireland) (Mar 99-Oct 01)

Evaluated and nominated 3 products for clinical development. Designed and implemented detailed research and development plans; managed project timelines and budgets; completed all projects on-time and within resource allocations.

University of California (San Francisco, California

May 92 - Dec 94

Post-Doctoral Scientist, Department of Biopharmaceutical Sciences,

Primary collaborator, with Dr. Leslie Z. Benet, in the development of a new oral bioavailability paradigm incorporating intestinal metabolism and active drug efflux.

Education

Ph.D. in Agricultural and Environmental Chemistry 1992

Pesticide Chemistry & Toxicology Laboratory, University of California, Berkeley

Awarded a University of California Regents' Fellowship (1988-1990)

Awarded the Gowrie Scholarship, Australia (1988-1990)

B.Sc. in Chemistry with Honors Class I and University Medal 1988

Department of Chemistry, University of New South Wales, Australia

Awarded the University Medal in Chemistry

Other Skills and Interests

Registered US Patent Agent

Fluent Spanish speaker; some French

Writing (satire, poetry, commentary)

Head Instructor, UC Berkeley Judo Club (1994-1996)

Paddling sports (sea kayaks, wave skis, dragon boating, rafting).

Patents

All Patents Acquired by Eastman Chemical Company

8. **Wacher VJ**, Benet LZ. 2001. Use of UGT inhibitors to increase bioavailability. *U.S. application under examination (WO03055494A1)*.
7. **Wacher VJ**, Benet LZ. 2001. Use of gallic acid esters to increase bioavailability of orally administered pharmaceutical compounds. *U.S. patent 6,180,666 (WO0051643A1)*
6. **Wacher VJ**. 1999. Improvement of bioavailability with vitamin C fatty acid esters. *U.S. application abandoned (WO00103695A1)*.
5. **Wacher VJ**, Benet LZ. 1999. Use of propyl gallate to increase bioavailability of orally administered pharmaceutical compounds. *U.S. patent 5,962,522 (WO09911290A1)*.
4. Benet LZ, **Wacher VJ**, Benet RM. 2000. Use of essential oils to increase bioavailability of oral pharmaceutical compounds. *U.S. patent 6,121,234*.
3. Benet LZ, **Wacher VJ**, Benet RM. 1999. Use of benzoin gum to inhibit P-glycoprotein-mediated resistance of pharmaceutical compounds. *U.S. patent 5,916,566*.
2. Benet LZ, **Wacher VJ**, Benet RM. 1998. Use of essential oils to increase bioavailability of oral pharmaceutical compounds. *U.S. patent 5,716,928*.
1. Benet LZ, **Wacher VJ**, Benet RM. 1997. Use of essential oils to increase bioavailability of oral

pharmaceutical compounds. *U.S. patent 5,665,386 (WO09640192A1)*.

Publications

25. Wempe MF, Wright C, Little, JL, Lightner JW, Large SE, Caflisch GB, Buchanan CM, Rice PJ, **Wacher VJ**, Ruble KM, Edgar KJ. 2009. Inhibiting efflux with novel non-ionic surfactants: Rational design based on Vitamin E TPGS. *Int. J. Pharm.* **370**: 93-102.
24. Buchanan CM, Buchanan NL, Edgar KJ, Little JL, Ramsey MG, Ruble KM, **Wacher VJ**, Wempe MF. 2008. Pharmacokinetics of saquinavir after intravenous and oral dosing of saquinavir: hydroxybutenyl- β -cyclodextrin formulations. *Biomacromolecules* **9**: 305-13.
23. Wempe MF, **Wacher VJ**, Ruble KM, Ramsey MG, Edgar KJ, Buchanan NL, Buchanan CM. 2008. Pharmacokinetics of raloxifene in male Wistar-Hannover rats: influence of complexation with hydroxybutenyl- β -cyclodextrin. *Int. J. Pharm.* **346**: 25-37.
22. Buchanan CM, Buchanan NL, Edgar KJ, Klein S, Little JL, Ramsey MG, Ruble KM, **Wacher VJ**, Wempe MF. 2007. Pharmacokinetics of itraconazole after intravenous and oral dosing of itraconazole - cyclodextrin formulations. *J. Pharm. Sci.* **96**: 3100-16.
21. Buchanan CM, Buchanan NL, Edgar KJ, Little JL, Malcolm MO, **Wacher VJ**, Wempe MF. 2006. Pharmacokinetics of tamoxifen after intravenous and oral dosing of tamoxifen-hydroxybutenyl- β -cyclodextrin formulations. *J. Pharm. Sci.* **96**: 644-60.
20. Chi KN, Chia SK, Dixon R, Newman MJ, **Wacher VJ**, Sikic B, Gelmon KA. 2005. A phase I pharmacokinetic study of the P-glycoprotein inhibitor, ONT-093, in combination with paclitaxel in patients with advanced cancer. *Invest. New Drugs* **23**: 311-5.
19. Hebert MF, **Wacher VJ**, Roberts JP, Benet LZ. 2003. Pharmacokinetics of cyclosporine pre- and post-liver transplantation. *J. Clin. Pharmacol.* **43**: 38-42.
18. **Wacher VJ**, Silverman JA, Wong S, Tran-Tau P, Chan AO, Chai AY, Yu X-Q, O'Mahony D, Ramtoola Z. 2002. Sirolimus oral absorption in rat is increased by ketoconazole but is not affected by d- α -tocopheryl poly(ethylene glycol 1000) succinate (TPGS). *J. Pharmacol. Exp. Ther.* **303**: 308-13.
17. Dresser GK, **Wacher VJ**, Wong S, Wong HT, Bailey DG. 2002. Evaluation of peppermint oil and ascorbyl palmitate as inhibitors of CYP3A4 activity in vitro and in vivo. *Clin. Pharmacol. Ther.* **72**: 247-55.
16. Wong S, Wong HT, **Wacher VJ**. 2002. Minimal Effect of Ketoconazole on Cyclosporine (SangCyA™) Oral Absorption in Rats. Evidence of a significant vehicle effect on SangCyA absorption. *Biopharm. Drug Dispos.* **23**: 53-7.
15. **Wacher VJ**, Wong S, Wong HT. 2002. Peppermint oil enhances cyclosporine oral bioavailability in rats. Comparison with d- α -tocopheryl poly(ethylene glycol 1000) succinate (TPGS) and ketoconazole. *J. Pharm. Sci.* **91**: 77-90.
14. **Wacher VJ**, Salphati L, Benet LZ. 2001. Active secretion and enterocytic drug metabolism barriers to drug absorption. *Adv. Drug Del. Rev.* **46**: 89-102. (**Commemorative edition of the 16 most cited articles in the journal since 1991**).
13. Benet LZ, Izumi T, Zhang Y, Silverman JA, **Wacher VJ**. 1999. Intestinal MDR transport proteins and P-450 enzymes as barriers to oral drug delivery. *J. Control. Rel.* **62**: 25-31.
12. Soldner A, Christians U, **Wacher VJ**, Silverman JA, Benet LZ. 1999. Grapefruit juice activates P-glycoprotein-mediated drug transport. *Pharm. Res.* **16**: 478-85.
11. **Wacher VJ**, Silverman JA, Zhang Y, Benet LZ. 1998. Role of P-glycoprotein and Cytochrome P450 3A in limiting absorption of peptides and peptidomimetics. *J. Pharm. Sci.* **87**: 1322-30.
10. **Wacher VJ**, Salphati L, Benet LZ. 1996. Active secretion and enterocytic drug metabolism barriers to drug absorption. *Adv. Drug Del. Rev.* **20**: 99-112.
9. Wu C-Y, Benet LZ, Hebert MF, Gupta SK, Rowland M, Gomez DY, **Wacher VJ**. 1995. Differentiation of

absorption and first-pass gut and hepatic metabolism in humans: studies with cyclosporine. *Clin. Pharmacol. Ther.* **58**: 492-7.

8. Benet LZ, Wu C-Y, Hebert MF, **Wachter VJ**. 1996. Intestinal drug metabolism and antitransport processes: a potential paradigm shift in oral drug delivery. *J. Control. Rel.* **39**: 139-43.
7. **Wachter VJ**, Wu C-Y, Benet LZ. 1995. Overlapping substrate specificities and tissue distribution of cytochrome P4503A and P-glycoprotein: implications for drug delivery and cancer chemotherapy. *Mol. Carcinog.* **13**: 129-34. (*Citation classic with over 500 citations*).
6. Gomez DY, **Wachter VJ**, Tomlanovich SJ, Hebert MF, Benet LZ. 1995. The effects of ketoconazole on the intestinal metabolism and bioavailability of cyclosporine. *Clin. Pharmacol. Ther.* **58**: 15-19.
5. **Wachter VJ**, Liu T, Roberts JP, Ascher NL, Benet LZ. 1995. Time course of cyclosporine and its metabolites in blood, liver and spleen of naive Lewis rats: comparison with preliminary data obtained in transplanted animals. *Biopharm. Drug Dispos.* **16**: 303-312.
4. **Wachter VJ**. 1994. "What is it about Judo?" in *University of California Martial Arts Silver Anniversary Monograph, Volume I*. K. Min (ed.). pp: 29-32. Available on-line at: <http://www.ucmap.org/publications/monograph/index.html>
3. **Wachter VJ**, Casida JE 1993. Metabolism in mouse liver and photooxidation of the insecticidal cis- and trans-2-(4-bromophenyl)-5-tert-Butyl-1,3-dithianes. *J. Agric. Food Chem.* **41**: 296-302.
2. **Wachter VJ**, Toia RF, Casida JE 1992. 2-Aryl-5-tert-Butyl-1,3-dithianes and their S-oxidation products: structure-activity relationships of potent insecticides acting at the GABA-gated chloride channel. *J. Agric. Food Chem.* **40**: 497-505.
1. Craig DC, Toia RF, **Wachter VJ**. 1989. X-ray crystal structure of 5-acetoxymethyl-5-methyl-2-phenyl-1,3,2-dioxaphosphorinane 2-oxide. *Aust. J. Chem.* **42**: 977-982.

Presentations

14. C21 Bioventures Conference. Napa, California. May 27, 2010. *Verva Pharmaceuticals: Novel Therapies for Metabolic Disease*.
13. CHI Drug Repositioning Summit. Boston, Massachusetts. October 13, 2009. *VVP808 - Repositioning an Old Molecule as a New Insulin Sensitizer Using the Gene Expression Signature (GES) Platform*.
12. GTCbio 4th Annual Metabolic Diseases Summit. Cambridge, Massachusetts. November 06, 2008. *Invited panelist, Partnering and Licensing Panel Discussion*.
11. C21 Bioventures Conference. Napa, California. May 21, 2008. *Verva Pharmaceuticals: Novel Therapies for Metabolic Disease*.
10. Merck Diabetes / Obesity Therapeutic Area Day. October 16, 2007. Short Hills, New Jersey. *Adipogen Pharmaceuticals: Innovative Therapies for Metabolic Diseases*.
9. AusBiotech Queensland Branch and Ernst and Young Breakfast Series. Brisbane, Queensland. October 12, 2006. *Strategy and structure of small biotech companies - Comparisons between the US and Australia*.
8. American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists Annual Meeting and Exposition. Nashville, Tennessee. November 09, 2005. Session on "Impact of Excipients on Transporter Function: Translation of In Vitro Observations to In Vivo Bioenhancement". *Sirolimus oral absorption in rat is increased by ketoconazole but is not affected by d- α -tocopheryl poly(ethylene glycol 1000) succinate (TPGS)*
7. Controlled Release Society, 32nd Annual Meeting and Exposition. Miami, Florida. June 20, 2005. *Vitamin E TPGS as a P-glycoprotein Inhibitor and Bioavailability Enhancer*.
6. San Diego Association for Rational Inquiry. San Diego, California. July 28, 2002. *Discovering New Pharmaceuticals*.
5. International Society for the Study of Xenobiotics Eighth North American Meeting. Hilton Head, South

- Carolina. October 27, 1997. *Role of P-glycoprotein and cytochrome P4503A4 in limiting oral absorption of peptidomimetics.*
4. American Chemical Society Conference on Formulations and Drug Delivery II. La Jolla, California. October 06, 1997. *Role of P-glycoprotein and cytochrome P4503A4 in limiting oral absorption of peptides.*
 3. Third International Workshop on Pharmacokinetic-Pharmacodynamic Relationships of Antineoplastic Agents. Irvington, Virginia. September 15th, 1995. *Modulators of drug metabolism.*
 2. American Chemical Society Annual Meeting. Young Scientists' Symposium, Division of Agrochemicals. San Francisco, California. April 7th, 1992. *2-Aryl-5-tert-Butyl-1,3-dithianes and their S-oxidation products: potent insecticides acting at the GABA-gated chloride channel.*
 1. Wellcome Environmental Health Research and Development. Berkhamstead, United Kingdom. August 2nd, 1990. *2,5-Disubstituted-1,3-dithiane S-oxidation products: preparation, structural and stereochemical assignment and mammalian GABA_A receptor potency.*

Abstracts and Posters

10. Yu XX, Watts LM, Hutley L, Whitehead J, Prins J, **Wacher V**, Monia BP, Bhanot S. 2008. Decreased Adiposity and Improved Insulin Sensitivity in Obese Mice After Suppression of Hepatic and Adipose Tissue FGFR4 Expression. *American Diabetes Association 68th Scientific Sessions*. Abstract 1708-P.
9. Yu XX, Watts LM, Tokorcheck J, Hutley L, Whitehead J, Prins J, **Wacher V**, Pandey SK, Monia BP, Bhanot S. 2007. Antisense Reduction of FGFR4 Expression Improves Adiposity and Insulin Resistance in Obese Mice. *NAASO - The Obesity Society Annual Scientific Meeting*. Abstract 135-OR
8. Buchanan C, Buchanan N, Edgar K, Lambert J, Little J, Navarro L, Posey-Dowty J, Ruble K, **Wacher V**, Wempe M. 2005. In vivo and in vitro studies of tamoxifen-hydroxybutenyl cyclodextrin complexes. *AAPS J.* **7(S2)**: Abstract W4103.
7. **Wacher VJ**, Edgar KJ. 2005. Vitamin E TPGS as a P-glycoprotein Inhibitor and Bioavailability Enhancer. *Controlled Release Society 32nd Annual Meeting and Exposition Transactions*. Abstract 39.
6. Collnot E-M, Baldes C, Wempe M, Hyatt J, Navarro L, **Wacher V**, Edgar KJ, Schaefer U, Lehr C-M. 2005. Improving potency of oral absorption enhancers: new analogues of vitamin E TPGS. *Controlled Release Society 32nd Annual Meeting and Exposition Transactions*. Abstract 352.
5. Chi KN, Chia SK, Sikic B, Dixon R, Newman M, **Wacher VJ**, Toyonaga B, Hoth D, Gelmon KA. 2002. A phase I pharmacokinetic study of ONT-093 in combination with paclitaxel in patients with advanced cancer. *Eur. J. Cancer* **38 (Suppl. 7)**: 156
4. Dresser GK, **Wacher VJ**, Ramtoola Z, Cumming KI, Bailey DG. 2002. Peppermint oil increases the oral bioavailability of felodipine and simvastatin. *Clin. Pharmacol. Ther.* **71**: P67.
3. Wong S, **Wacher VJ**. 2001. Glucuronidation of raloxifene by liver microsomes and recombinant UGT enzymes. *AAPS PharmSci* **3 (3)**. On-line journal <http://www.aapspharmsci.org>.
2. Wong S, **Wacher VJ**. 2001. Inhibition of microsomal CYP activities by fatty acids. *AAPS PharmSci* **3 (3)**. On-line journal <http://www.aapspharmsci.org>.
1. McCrystal CB, Cumming KI, Gudipati R, Ramtoola Z, Benet LZ, Silverman JA, **Wacher VJ**. 2001. Solubility enhancement and in-vitro characterisation of benzoin gum powder formulations. *Controlled Release Society 28th Annual Symposium*