



MedChem Seminar (Remote)



*"Drugging RNA Structures with
Small Molecules"*

Jennifer C. Petter, PhD.

Founder and Chief Scientific Officer
Arrakis Therapeutics

Thursday October 22, 2020 at 4:00 p.m.

Meeting Link:

<https://umich-health.zoom.us/j/99952178981>

Meeting ID: 999 5217 8981

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“Drugging RNA Structures with Small Molecules”



Jennifer C Petter, PhD | Founder and CSO |

RNA is upstream of all biology and thus presents a vast array of therapeutically attractive targets. Most therapeutic agents that bind directly to RNA are either antibiotics blocking bacterial ribosome function or oligonucleotides with their attendant pharmaceutical limitations. At Arrakis we have identified druggable RNA sub-structures in mRNA with complex tertiary folds and drug-like small molecules that bind to those structures selectively. In addition to highlighting some of the unique challenges of drugging RNA, this presentation will highlight the central role played by chemical biology in advancing ligands toward therapeutic value against this novel class of targets.



Dr. Petter is the Founder and CSO of Arrakis Therapeutics. Previously she was Vice President of Chemistry at Celgene, Vice President of Drug Discovery at Avila Therapeutics, Vice President of Research at Mersana Therapeutics, Director of Small Molecule Drug Discovery at Biogen, Section Head in Oncology Chemistry at Sandoz/Novartis, and Assistant Professor of Chemistry at the University of Pittsburgh. Dr. Petter graduated from Dartmouth College with an AB in chemistry, earned her PhD in organic chemistry at Duke University with Ned Porter, and was a post-doctoral fellow in Ron Breslow's group at Columbia University. She has ushered multiple compounds into the clinic for the treatment of cancer, cardiovascular disease, autoimmune disorders, and sepsis.