Short biography

Barbara J. Mason, Ph.D.

Barbara J. Mason is the Pearson Family Professor, Co-Director of the Pearson Center for Alcoholism and Addiction Research, and Director of the Laboratory of Clinical Psychopharmacology in the Committee on the Neurobiology of Addictive Disorders at The Scripps Research Institute, La Jolla, CA and is an Adjunct Professor in the Departments of Psychiatry of the University of Miami School of Medicine, Miami, FL and the University of California, San Diego, CA.

Dr. Mason was a member of the faculty of the Weill Cornell University Medical College (1981-1991) where she initiated a program of clinical research funded by the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism with a focus on investigating treatment of comorbid depression and alcohol dependence. Results of this work were published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* (1996, 275(10):761-767) and were the topic of a media briefing by the American Medical Association, as "landmark work of major public health significance."

Moving to the University of Miami School of Medicine (1991-2003), Dr. Mason developed a nationally accredited addiction psychiatry fellowship program for advanced psychiatry residents and continued her program of research on medications development for relapse prevention by initiating an investigation of nalmefene as a novel treatment of alcohol dependence.

This work was chosen by the National Institutes of Health for presentation to the US Congress as a pivotal study of 1999 and was published in the *Archives of General Psychiatry* (1999, 56:719-724). Dr. Mason served as overall principal investigator for the first US study of acamprosate as a novel treatment of alcohol dependence, that was conducted in 21 centers across the United States and involved 601 outpatients with alcohol dependence. In seeking to further optimize the safety and efficacy of medications to treat alcohol dependence, Dr. Mason and colleagues conducted the first pharmacokinetic/pharmacodynamic interaction study of acamprosate and naltrexone to evaluate the safety of the combined use of these medications (*Neuropsychopharmacology* 2002, 27(4): 596-606).

Dr. Mason's work in medication development to prevent relapse in alcohol dependence has been recognized with a MERIT Award from the National Institutes of Health, the Dean's Senior Clinical Research Award from the University of Miami School of Medicine, and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Teacher-Scientist Award from Cornell University Medical College. Dr. Mason has served on the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism National Advisory Council and as a member of their Clinical and Treatment Subcommittee Initial Review Group, as an ad hoc member of the National Institutes of Health Government Performance and Results Act Review Group, as a guest expert for the Food and Drug Administration, and is currently a member of the National Advisory Council on Drug Abuse for the National Institutes of Health.

Dr. Mason has served as field editor for the drugs and alcohol section of *Neuropsychopharmacology*, as a member of the editorial boards for *Alcoholism: Clinical and Experimental Research, Journal of Substance Abuse,* and The Ninth and Tenth Special Reports to the US Congress on Alcohol and Health from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, and is a member of the editorial board for the *Journal of Addiction Medicine*, the official journal of the American Society of Addiction Medicine. Dr. Mason holds

the Pearson Family Chair, an endowed position in alcohol and addiction research at The Scripps Research Institute, and is currently pursuing a program of NIH-funded research that includes human laboratory studies to rapidly screen potential relapse prevention medications, clinical trials to evaluate the safety and efficacy of novel medications in outpatients with alcohol or cannabis dependence, and a NIDA-funded P20 Translational Center on the Clinical Neurobiology of Cannabis Addiction, which is dedicated to studying the neurobiology of cannabis dependence.