



# Getting Out of the Sandbox – Coexisting as an Academic Researcher & Biotech Entrepreneur



**Tobin Dickerson, Ph.D.**

**Chief Scientific Officer and Co-Founder, MiNDERA**

**Associate Professor, Department of Chemistry,**

**The Scripps Research Institute**

Academic research has been one of the primary engines driving scientific innovation for decades. Yet, it well recognized that academics and entrepreneurs do not always “speak the same language” and many promising technologies never seem to mature beyond the university laboratory. Is it possible to effectively coexist as both an academic researcher and a biotech entrepreneur or are these paths mutually exclusive?

This lecture will focus on Dr. Dickerson’s approach to applied science and the journey of moving technologies out of the laboratory and into start up environments, most recently culminating in the founding of a start up company focused on microneedle diagnostics (MiNDERA). Dr. Dickerson completed his Ph.D. in Chemical Biology at The Scripps Research Institute in 2004 and was promoted to the faculty at TSRI in 2005. He has published >80 peer-reviewed manuscripts and has raised >\$30 million for his academic research. His laboratory has focused on developing new technologies for problems of clinical relevance including platforms that can predict protein evolution de novo, establish disease elimination in resource-limited settings, and non-invasively extract biomarkers from the skin. Additionally, Dr. Dickerson serves as the CSO of MiNDERA and has been successful in raising millions of dollars from venture capital, as well as establishing fruitful collaborations with multinational pharmaceutical corporations and consumer skin care companies. MiNDERA has developed a breakthrough technology to non-invasively extract biomarkers from the skin (no biopsy required), revolutionizing the way skin diseases are studied, diagnosed, and treated.

**Hosted by Karen Houseknecht, Ph.D. Interim Dean, College of Pharmacy  
and Professor, College of Osteopathic Medicine**

**INNOVATION HALL**

**Tuesday, October 24, 2017 Reception at 5pm, Presentation at 5:30pm**

Please RSVP to 221-4500 if you are inviting a large group (10+); Inquiries to Peg Donovan, 221-4500



College of Pharmacy

INNOVATION FOR A HEALTHIER PLANET