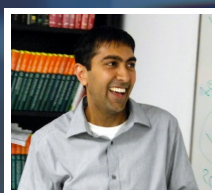


# Fighting Cancer with New Compounds



Neil Garg  
Professor, Chemistry and Biochemistry

## CURRENT RESEARCH

### Synthesizing new compounds with biological activity to improve human health

The overwhelming majority of drugs on the market are purely synthetic, meaning they are made by the powers of organic chemistry. Molecules found naturally can seldom be used as drugs for humans because of side effects, although they often provide the inspiration for the discovery of new medicines. Dr. Neil Garg, of the University of California, Los Angeles, makes natural products and adjusts them to create molecules that may be promising leads for the development of important drugs. While a molecule found in nature might do something useful, like fight cancer, it may also be toxic for human use. By figuring out how to make the molecules and related ones in the lab, researchers can come closer to the goal of discovering new bioactive molecules that might benefit humanity.

More generally, Dr. Garg focuses his research efforts on the discovery of new chemical reactions, the understanding of how organic molecules react, and the chemical synthesis of biologically important molecules that may ultimately benefit human health. Dr. Garg describes his group of 15-20 researchers as being nothing short of remarkable. His graduate students come from all over the U.S. and many have highly competitive fellowships and are considered some of the most talented chemists in the country. Dr. Garg and his team draw inspiration from molecules found in nature that may be useful for human health. His graduate students and postdocs then learn to make the natural compounds and create derivatives that may enhance their effect and decrease harmful side-effects for patients taking them. Ideally, Dr. Garg and his team will patent any new medicines they create and the drug will then be manufactured in order to help patients...

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## AFFILIATION



University of California, Los Angeles

## EDUCATION

- Postdoc. in Organic Chemistry, 2007 . University of California, Irvine
- Ph.D., in Organic Chemistry, 2005 . California Institute of Technology
- B.S., in Chemistry, 2000 . New York University

## AWARDS

- Arthur C. Cope Scholar Award, 2015
- UCLA Distinguished Teaching Award & Eby Award for the Art of Teaching, 2014
- Camille Dreyfus Teacher-Scholar Award, 2013
- 7 awards from major pharmaceutical companies, 2009- 2014
- Alfred P. Sloan Research Fellowship, 2012

## RESEARCH AREAS

Life Science, Health IT, Oncology / Cancer

## FUNDING REQUEST

Your contributions will support the continued research of Dr. Neil Garg, of the University of California, Los Angeles, as he synthesizes new compounds with biological activity to improve human health. Your donations will support the \$50K per year required for each graduate student, and Dr. Garg's chemical education projects. In choosing to donate, you will be an important part of helping to develop new drugs with incredible consequences for health and inspiring future scientists!