



**Wayne D. Bowen, Ph.D.**

Upjohn Professor of Pharmacology  
Professor of Biology  
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A nationally recognized leader in research on sigma receptors, Wayne Bowen, Ph.D. is generally credited with the discovery and initial characterization of the sigma-2 receptor. He has shown that activation of sigma-2 receptors induces apoptotic cell death and therefore they may serve as regulators of cell proliferation and survival. He has most recently provided evidence that sigma-2 receptors may play a role in metabolic regulation in cancer cells. Trained initially as a chemist, Dr. Bowen maintains a strong interest and involvement in medicinal chemistry and drug design, particularly in relation to the development of selective sigma receptor agonists and antagonists. He is exploring these compounds as potential anti-neoplastic, tumor diagnostic and neuroprotective agents.

Dr. Bowen co-directs the core pharmacology course for the molecular pharmacology and physiology (MPP) graduate program at Brown. In addition, he contributes to endocrinology and neuroscience courses for Brown University undergraduates. He has served as chair of the department of molecular pharmacology, physiology and biotechnology since 2007.

Dr. Bowen is a member of the Society for Neuroscience, the International Brain Research Organization/World Federation of Neuroscientists and the American Association for Cancer Research. He is the recipient of numerous awards and honors and has performed service on NIMH and NIDA Study Sections. Dr. Bowen's research has been funded by NIDA, NINDS, NIDDK, the Rhode Island Science and Technology Advisory Council and a Salomon Award from Brown University.