

ALUMNI STORIES



**Kishor Wasan, PLC, R.Ph., Ph.D.,
FAAPS, FCAHS, FCSPS**

The University of British Columbia

Vancouver, British Columbia
Canada

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS
MD Anderson
Cancer Center
Making Cancer History®

A Texas-sized career

For as long as Kishor Wasan, PLC, R.Ph., Ph.D. can remember, he has had a fascination with Texas. He has been a fan of the Dallas Cowboys since he was young boy. He often read about Texas and loved everything about it. When it came time to apply for college, on a whim he pursued the pharmacy program at The University of Texas at Austin. He didn't think his acceptance chances were good and was surprised the day he received word that he was one of the first Canadians accepted into UT's pharmacy program. Since then, his career has become almost as big as Texas.

- Dr. Wasan is a Canadian pharmacologist, pharmacist, professor, and researcher.
- He was dean of the University of Saskatchewan's College of Pharmacy and Nutrition.
- He has served as associate dean of Research and Graduate studies at the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences at the University of British Columbia.
- He is a founding member and co-director of University of British Columbia's Neglected Global Diseases Initiative.
- He has served as a retail pharmacist as well as a decentralized hospital pharmacist.
- He has published more than 520 peer-reviewed articles and abstracts in lipid-based drug delivery and lipoprotein-drug interactions.
- He served as associate editor of the Journal of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences and was a member of their editorial board for several years.
- He has earned more than 25 professional distinctions.
- He is a fellow in multiple professional societies.
- And most importantly, he is a husband and proud father of 4 children.

Dr. Wasan's research focuses on lipid-based drug delivery and the interaction between lipoprotein and pharmaceuticals. One of Dr. Wasan's early research studies and one of his proudest professional accomplishments centered around re-formulating an old drug named amphotericin B into a lipid-based drug delivery system. He and his MD Anderson Cancer Center mentor and

doctoral advisor, [Gabriel Lopez-Berestein, M.D.](#), worked together on the project so that cancer patients experiencing fungal infections could benefit from the new drug with minimized renal toxicity. Eventually he was asked – *and funded* – by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to convert that same drug from an injectable to an oral form that is cost-effective, safe, tropically stable, and accessible so that it could be distributed in areas where they don't have trained healthcare professionals to administer the injectable form of the drug.

Although semi-retired from his academic teaching roles, Dr. Wasan's latest focus is serving as a co-founder and co-director of the University of British Columbia's Neglected Global Diseases Initiative. This organization brings together groups interested in making a positive impact on global diseases that disproportionately affect the poorest of our global population such as malaria and others designated by the World Health Organization. He is also currently developing new therapeutic strategies to treat castration-resistant prostate cancer and is in negotiations to begin Phase 2 studies.

What drives Dr. Wasan to continue his professional quest? He believes the opportunity to give to others is worth the hard work. He has had many people help him along the way, and some of the best advice he received early in his career was from his MD Anderson mentor, Dr. Lopez-Berestein. Thankful for Dr. Lopez-Berestein's guidance and support, Dr. Wasan asked him what he could do as a gesture of gratitude. Dr. Lopez-Berestein's response? He told Dr. Wasan he could thank him by doing the same for others. And that is exactly what Dr. Wasan has done for the past 30+ years through his work.

Academic area of specialization

- Lipid-based drug delivery
- Novel therapeutics for cancer and infectious diseases
- Global health

Current Employer

The University of British Columbia

Current Location

Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

Current Position

- University of British Columbia – Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada – (1995-present)
 - Adjunct Professor, Distinguished University Scholar and Co-Director/Founder of Neglected Global Diseases Initiative (NGDI) – Co-Director and Co-Founder (2009-present)
 - Adjunct Professor & University Scholar – Department of Urologic Sciences – Faculty of Medicine Faculty – (2020-present)
 - Adjunct Professor & Distinguished University Scholar – Faculty of Pharmaceutical Services (2014-present)
 - Associate Dean of Research and Graduate Studies, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, The University of British Columbia (2011-2014)
 - Professor and University Scholar – (1995-2014)
- Skymount Medical – Calgary, Alberta, Canada – (2022-present)
 - Chief Scientific Officer
- Kishor Wasan Consulting, Inc. – (2022-present)
 - Principal Owner – (2020-present)
- Satellos Bioscience Inc. – Toronto, Ontario, Canada – (2022-present)
 - Pharmacology and Amphotericin B Formulation Development Consultant
- The University of Saskatchewan – Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada – (2014-2019)
 - Professor and Dean, College of Pharmacy and Nutrition
- ICO Therapeutics, Inc. – Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada – (2020-2021)
 - Director of Research

Works of Interest

- [Canadian contributions to research on neglected tropical diseases](#)
- [Highly Effective Oral Amphotericin B Formulation against Murine Visceral Leishmaniasis](#)
- [Impact of lipoproteins on the biological activity and disposition of hydrophobic drugs: implications for drug discovery](#)
- [Inhibition of Scavenger Receptor Class B Type 1 \(SR-B1\) Expression and Activity as a Potential Novel Target to Disrupt Cholesterol Availability in Castration-Resistant Prostate Cancer](#)
- [Safety, Tolerability, and Pharmacokinetics of a Novel Oral Amphotericin B Formulation \(iCo-019\) following Single-Dose Administration to Healthy Human Subjects: an Alternative Approach to Parenteral Amphotericin B Administration](#)
- [Kishor M. Wasan's publications indexed by Google Scholar](#)

Awards & Recognitions

- 2021 – Public Leadership Credential – Harvard Kennedy School
- 2011 – Canadian Society of Pharmaceutical Sciences Leadership Award for Outstanding Contributions to Pharmaceutical Sciences in Canada
- 2009 – CIHR/iCo Therapeutics Research Chair in Drug Delivery for Neglected Global Diseases
- 2008 – AFPC-Pfizer Research Career Award
- 2007 – AAPS Award for Outstanding Research in Lipid- Based Drug Delivery
- 2004 – University Distinguished Scholar
- 2003-2008 – Canadian Institutes of Health Research University-Industry Research Chair in Pharmaceutical Development
- 2002 – Association of Faculties of Pharmacy of Canada New Investigator Research Award
- 2001 – American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists New Investigator Award/Grant in Pharmaceutics and Pharmaceutics Technologies

- 1993 – American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists (AAPS) Graduate Student Award for Excellence in Graduate Research in Drug Delivery
- Dr. Wasan is a Fellow in the:
 - Canadian Society of Pharmaceutical Scientists – May 2013
 - Canadian Academy of Health Sciences – September 2010
 - American Association of Pharmaceutical Sciences – October 2006
 - Fellow Member- Royal Society of Medicine UK – December 2021 – present

Mentors

With great enthusiasm, Dr. Wasan talks about his MD Anderson Cancer Center mentor and doctoral advisor, Dr. Gabriel Lopez-Berestein. Under Dr. Lopez-Berestein’s watch, students were exposed to not only basic science research but also translational research which added much depth and practical applications to the work of the students. And Dr. Lopez-Berestein’s mentorship didn’t end after Dr. Wasan left MD Anderson. They’ve written papers together and both continue to consult with one another as they tackle new projects in their career journeys. Dr. Berestein’s mentorship is one of many reasons Dr. Wasan describes his time at MD Anderson as outstanding.

Gabriel Lopez-Berestein, M.D. is a Professor of Medicine, Cancer Biology, and Experimental Therapeutics in the Department of Experimental Therapeutics, Division of Cancer Medicine at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Texas.

Family

Married with four children.

Online profiles

- [Wikipedia](#)
- [LinkedIn](#)

Postgraduate studies

Cleveland Clinic Research Institute Cell Biology
Postdoctoral Fellow – Lipid and Lipoprotein Metabolism – 1995

Graduate school(s) from which I received a degree(s)

The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center UTHealth Graduate School of
Biomedical Sciences
Ph.D., Molecular and Cellular Pharmacology – 1993

Undergraduate school(s) from which I received a degree(s)

The University of Texas at Austin
B.S., Pharmacy – 1985

High school from which I graduated

Loyalists Collegiate Vocational Institute
Kingston, Ontario, Canada – 1981

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