Marquis P. Vawter

Education

Marquis P. Vawter is a distinguished researcher specializing in psychiatry and human behavior. He holds a Master of Arts (MA), a Master of Science in Education (MSEd), and a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Psychology, establishing a strong foundation in psychiatric genetics. As a licensed psychologist, Dr. Vawter brings both clinical and research expertise to his work.

Career

Dr. Vawter serves as a **Research Professor of Psychiatry** at the University of California, Irvine. His research focuses on psychiatric genetics and mitochondrial function, making significant contributions to the understanding of mental health disorders. His work bridges fundamental research and clinical applications, advancing the field of neuropsychiatric genomics.

Clinical Experience

ADDICTION RESEARCH CENTER, Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Campus, NIDA, Baltimore, MD. PSYCHOLOGY CLINICAL INTERNSHIP SITE

NATIONAL RESEARCH HOSPITAL, National Institute of Mental Health Neuroscience Center at Saint Elizabeths, Washington DC. . PSYCHOLOGY CLINICAL INTERNSHIP SITE

ABA AND ASSOCIATES, Santa Ana, CA. MARRIAGE AND FAMILY INTERNSHIP.

PEOPLEGROWERS, Laguna Hills, CA. MARRIAGE AND FAMILY INTERNSHIP.

LAGUNA NIGUEL COUNSELING GROUP, Laguna Niguel, CA. PSYCHOLOGY CLINICAL INTERNSHIP SITE

CENTER FOR CREATIVE ALTERNATIVES, Huntington Beach and Mission Viejo, CA. PSYCHOLOGY CLINICAL INTERNSHIP SITE

LAGUNA BEACH FREE CLINIC, Laguna Beach, CA. MARRIAGE AND FAMILY INTERNSHIP.

Clinical Licenses

Licensed Psychologist (California State Board of Psychology, PSY 16694, Inactive). Marriage and Family Therapist (Inactive).

Leadership Role in Laguna Diagnostics

Dr. Vawter is the **Chief Scientific Officer (CSO)** of **Laguna Dx**, a company dedicated to developing and commercializing diagnostic biomarkers for mental health disorders. Under his leadership:

- **Development of Biomarkers**: He is spearheading the creation of a blood-based gene expression assay designed for the differential diagnosis of schizophrenia and bipolar disorder.
- **Innovative Diagnostics**: His efforts are focused on bringing precision diagnostics to market, enhancing the accuracy and efficiency of mental health assessments through cutting-edge technology.

Mentorship and Laboratory Leadership
Dr. Vawter is deeply committed to training the next generation of scientists and clinicians:

- Supervised over 10 postdoctoral trainees, fostering advanced research skills and academic achievements.
- Inspired numerous lab members to pursue successful careers, including admission to prestigious medical schools.
- Directs the **Functional Genomics Laboratory** at UC Irvine, which conducts state-of-the-art research in psychiatric genetics and functional genomics.

Collaborative Research Initiatives
Dr. Vawter is an integral member of several high-profile scientific collaborations, contributing his expertise to global efforts in genetics and neuroscience:

- **Psychiatric Genomics Consortium (PGC)**: Focuses on identifying genetic risk factors for psychiatric disorders.
- **All of Us Research Program**: Advances understanding of how biology, environment, and lifestyle impact health outcomes.
- **Broad Institute**: Engages in interdisciplinary research on complex diseases.
- **Pritzker Neuropsychiatric Disorders Research Consortium**: Aims to discover biomarkers and therapeutic targets for neuropsychiatric conditions.

Postdoctoral Training
Dr. Vawter completed two prestigious postdoctoral fellowships:

- **National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), Saint Elizabeths Hospital, Washington, DC (1994–1997)**: Investigated neuronal and glial cell cultures, focusing on cell adhesion molecules and cytokines in neuropsychiatric disorders.
- **National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center, Baltimore, MD (1997–1999)**: Conducted neuropsychological assessments of substance abuse populations, exploring the effects of methadone treatment on cognitive function.

Research Contributions
Dr. Vawter's groundbreaking research includes:

- **Mitochondrial Dysfunction in Psychiatric Disorders**: Investigating mitochondrial abnormalities in schizophrenia and bipolar disorder.
- **Genetic Studies on Schizophrenia**: Contributing to the SCHEMA Consortium's discoveries on rare mutations that increase schizophrenia risk.
- **Mitochondrial DNA Deletions**: Cataloging mitochondrial DNA deletions in the human brain to improve understanding of their role in psychiatric conditions.

Scholarly Impact
Dr. Vawter is internationally recognized as a leading figure in psychiatric genetics. According to Google Scholar rankings:

- **h-index**: 103, reflecting the profound influence of his work in psychiatry, genetics, and neuroscience.
- **Citations**: Over 70,000, underscoring his pivotal role in advancing the understanding of psychiatric disorders, functional genomics, and mitochondrial dysfunction.

His work is frequently cited in major studies on schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, and neuropsychiatric genetics. His most-cited papers, published in renowned journals such as *Nature* and *Nature Genetics*, have accumulated thousands of citations, highlighting their lasting impact on the field.

Grants and Funding
Dr. Vawter has led several prominent NIH-funded research projects, including:

- **R01: Mitochondrial Dysfunction in Schizophrenia**
- **R21: Mitochondrial Deletions in Mood Disorders**

Patents
Dr. Vawter is listed as an inventor on multiple patents, including:

- **Biomarkers for bipolar disorder and schizophrenia**: Diagnostics leveraging genetic and molecular markers for precise assessment.
- **Genes and pathways differentially expressed in bipolar disorder and/or major depressive disorder**: Tools for understanding and diagnosing psychiatric conditions.

Honors and Awards

- **California State Scholar**: Recognized for academic excellence during undergraduate studies.
- **Gladys Byram Graduate Scholarship**: Awarded for outstanding graduate research.
- **Predoctoral Fellowship Research Award**: Acknowledged by the Rudolf Magnus Institute for Pharmacology, Netherlands, for innovative predoctoral research.

Dr. Vawter's distinguished career exemplifies a lifelong commitment to understanding the causes of mental health disorders through innovative research, leadership in biomarker development, and collaborative scientific efforts. His work has laid a critical foundation for advancing precision diagnostics and therapeutic approaches in psychiatry, impacting both science and clinical care worldwide.