

## Lyrica™ *Northwestern University*

While in pursuit of finding an anticonvulsant agent for possible use in the treatment of epilepsy, Richard B. Silverman, Professor of Chemistry at Northwestern University, along with postdoctoral fellow Ryszard Andruszkiewicz, invented the novel compound pregabalin, which successfully treats epilepsy, neuropathic pain, anxiety disorder, and fibromyalgia. Lyrica™, the trade name for pregabalin, is the first and only approved drug to date for the effective treatment of diabetic peripheral neuropathy and postherpetic neuralgia, two of the most common forms of nerve pain that afflict millions of people, and for fibromyalgia.

Market launch of Lyrica™, both in U.S. and worldwide has exceeded expectations. Lyrica's acceptance among physicians and patients has made it one of the most successful new drug launches in recent years. Lyrica™, formerly known as Pregabalin, was launched in the United States in mid September 2005, for neuropathic pain and epilepsy. Lyrica™ has been in the European market for several years, having received market approval by the European Union in July 2004, for two indications, neuropathic pain and epilepsy. In March 2006 the European Union also approved Lyrica™ for the treatment of generalized anxiety disorder (GAD). In February 2007, Lyrica™ was approved in the United States for fibromyalgia. Clinical trials continue in the United States with Lyrica™ for generalized anxiety disorder.

Lyrica™ is protected by numerous patents covering its composition, methods of syntheses, and clinical use for treatment of various conditions, such as epilepsy, pain, and anxiety disorder. A license agreement between Northwestern University and Warner Lambert (later as acquired by Pfizer), granted the exclusive rights to Pfizer. Worldwide sale of Lyrica™ in 2006, the first full year after FDA approval, was \$1.2 billion dollars, and it has continued to increase substantially.

In December 2007, Northwestern monetized part of Lyrica™ royalties for \$700 M.

<http://www.lyrica.com/>