

DESSI TURNER, MS, DABT

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EDUCATION

DABT	Diplomate <i>American Board of Toxicology</i>	November 2022
MS	Pharmacology and Toxicology <i>Michigan State University</i>	May 2018
BS	Animal Science <i>University of Connecticut</i>	May 2012

WORK EXPERIENCE

Bulletproof Consulting <i>Fractional Head of Nonclinical Development</i>	Apr 2022 - Present
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- Serve as embedded, fractional Head of Nonclinical Development for early-stage and growth-stage biotech companies, owning end-to-end nonclinical development from discovery through IND and into early clinical development.
- Own execution of the full nonclinical program — pharmacology, DMPK, toxicology, safety pharmacology, and CMC coordination — aligning with regulatory strategy and corporate milestones.
- Direct the design, execution, and oversight of nonclinical safety programs, including study strategy, CRO selection and management, on-site monitoring, timeline control, and budget accountability.
- Set regulatory strategy and author/manage submissions and interactions, including pre-INDs, INDs, CTAs, and regulatory briefing packages, with a focus on defensible interpretation and regulatory clarity.
- Author and peer review toxicological risk assessments, including Permitted Daily Exposure (PDE) monographs for shared-facility manufacturing and cleaning validation, and qualification of impurities.
- Build the development narrative that anchors investor decks, board materials, and diligence packages — translating complex nonclinical data into a story non-scientists can evaluate and fund.
- Support fundraising as the development lead, including non-GLP toxicology plans and cost estimates for SBIR/STTR and other grant applications, plus data-room preparation and direct investor engagement as programs advance toward equity financing.
- Lead nonclinical programs across diverse modalities — small molecules, biologics, ADCs, vaccines, nanoparticles, and radiopharmaceuticals — and therapeutic areas including oncology, immunology, rare disease, endocrinology, cardiovascular, and CNS.

Porosome Therapeutics

Sep 2026 - Present

Fractional Head of Nonclinical Development

- Serve as fractional Head of Nonclinical Development for a Boston-area biotech advancing a small-molecule Alzheimer's disease program and an Orphan Drug–designated biologic for cystic fibrosis.
- Own the comprehensive nonclinical development plan, including IND-enabling strategy and a priority pre-IND/INTERACT meeting package.
- Lead nonclinical pharmacology, toxicology, and CMC strategy for a reformulated GRAS API, including design of bridging studies to leverage existing safety data.
- Direct the company's international science team on nonclinical execution, including study design, dose range-finding (DRF) studies, and data interpretation.
- Lead CRO identification, selection, and oversight across non-GLP and GLP study phases.
- Serve as the company's FDA liaison, leading regulatory interactions and IND submission.
- Generate decision-quality nonclinical data packages that support program valuation, partnering, and business development.

Immugen BioPharma, Inc.

Mar 2026 - Present

Chief Development Officer (CDO) and Board Member

- Serve as Chief Development Officer for a clinical-stage biopharmaceutical company developing a non-psychoactive THC derivative as a non-hormonal treatment for genitourinary syndrome of menopause (GSM), targeting FDA approval.
- Lead end-to-end drug development strategy spanning nonclinical safety, CMC, regulatory affairs, and IND-enabling program execution.
- Direct CRO identification, qualification, and oversight across toxicology, pharmacology, and formulation development programs.
- Author and oversee regulatory submissions and interactions including pre-IND strategy, briefing documents, and IND preparation.
- Lead fundraising strategy and investor engagement, including preparation of investor decks, data room documentation, and Seed/Series A planning.
- Collaborate with CEO and executive team on program prioritization, milestone planning, and operational execution.
- Represent the company's scientific and development programs to prospective investors, partners, and collaborators.
- Serve as a voting member of the Board of Directors, contributing to governance, strategic direction, and major operational decisions.
- Provide executive oversight on fundraising, equity structure, key partnerships, and program advancement criteria.
- Participate in review/approval of budgets, agreements, and corporate strategy.

Mimicry Solutions

May 2023 - Feb 2024

Founder and CEO

- Founded and led a biotechnology innovation venture focused on applying AI-driven translational modeling to turn animal predictions of drug safety into human predictions through a proprietary computational platform called ARTEMIS™.
- Defined company vision and built business strategy around reducing animal testing and accelerating drug candidate safety prediction through computational toxicology and data harmonization.
- Designed and oversaw development of proprietary data integration algorithms to identify mechanistic patterns across multi-modal toxicology datasets.
- Managed scientific partnerships and collaborations with academic, pharma, and AI/ML teams to validate and benchmark model performance against regulatory datasets.
- Authored and filed patent applications covering the proprietary computational platform architecture, data integration algorithms, and predictive toxicology modeling framework.
- Authored investor materials and pitch decks, and secured an SBIR grant application invitation, including full preparation of technical, commercial, and budget documentation.
- Oversaw all operational, legal, and financial aspects of company establishment, including corporate formation, equity structure, and strategic partnerships; represented the company at industry conferences and regulatory workshops.

Q32 Bio

Apr 2022 - Feb 2025

Associate Director of Toxicology

- Directed nonclinical safety programs to support development candidate nomination, regulatory submissions, and clinical development of large molecule therapeutics targeting autoimmune diseases.
- Managed the outsourcing and execution of nonclinical studies, including study design, species and dose selection, endpoint determination, CRO selection, study monitoring, protocol review, data analysis, safety assessments, and report finalization.
- Evaluated test articles to identify additional study needs or endpoints, ensuring comprehensive characterization of safety, toxicological, and pharmacological profiles to support human clinical trials.
- Led IND/CTA submission projects, overseeing timelines, managing cross-functional review processes, coordinating advisory boards, and serving as liaison with medical writers and quality control teams.
- Authored nonclinical sections of regulatory submissions ensuring compliance and scientific rigor, including INDs, CTAs, pre-INDs, Type D meetings, briefing books, Investigator's Brochures, and waivers.
- Provided strategic input on toxicology program feasibility, leveraging nonclinical data to guide decision-making and program design.
- Oversaw SEND dataset requirements, ensuring compliance and submission readiness.

Epizyme, Inc.

Feb 2021 - Apr 2022

Nonclinical Safety Lead

- Directed nonclinical safety programs to support development candidate nomination, regulatory submissions, and clinical development of small molecule oncologic drugs targeting blood cancers.
- Oversaw all nonclinical safety studies including toxicology, safety pharmacology, and DART studies; responsibilities included study design, species/dose selection, endpoint determination, CRO selection, monitoring, protocol finalization, data analysis, safety assessments, report review, and presentation of findings to project teams.
- Managed preclinical assessments, including in silico (DEREK/Sarah Nexus), in vitro (hERG assays, kinase profiles, off-target activity assays), and in vivo (mutagenicity and phospholipidosis evaluations) studies to support development candidate nomination.
- Acted as Project Lead for IND submissions, managing timelines, coordinating cross-functional reviews, overseeing advisory boards, and liaising with medical writers and quality control teams.
- Authored key sections of IND packages, including toxicology, secondary pharmacodynamic, and safety pharmacology sections, as well as NCOs, co-protocol elements, and the Investigator's Brochure.
- Led collaborations with external research institutions, including review of research proposals, material transfer agreements, and scientific research agreements.
- Oversaw the creation, review, and implementation of departmental SOPs and qualified CROs for GLP study outsourcing.

Instem

Jun 2018 - Feb 2021

Senior Information Scientist

- Oversaw the conversion and review of nonclinical toxicology and safety pharmacology data into SEND datasets, ensuring compliance with regulatory standards and policies (SENDIG, TCG, CoDEX, CDER, CBER) for FDA submission packages.
- Interpreted study reports and raw data to accurately populate SEND datasets, ensuring alignment with sponsor submission packages and supporting the safety assessment of test articles.
- Extensive experience with a wide range of study designs, including all nonclinical species, dose routes, and endpoints, ensuring comprehensive data collection and reporting.
- Actively participated as a member of the CDISC Core Team and CDISC Safety Pharmacology subteams, contributing to the development and implementation of industry-wide standards for SEND datasets.
- Led multiple process development and implementation projects, including converting safety pharmacology data into SEND format in response to new SEND IGs, revamping work instructions, and managing client projects involving up to 400 dataset conversions.
- Served as a trainer and mentor, providing guidance on dataset conversions, reviews, Microsoft Office applications, and industry best practices.

Pfizer, Inc.

May 2012 - Jun 2018

In Vivo Study Scientist

- Led the execution and oversight of non-GLP and GLP toxicology, safety pharmacology, and DART studies, managing all aspects from pre-planning to reporting across various species (mouse, rat, dog, rabbit, monkey).
- Conducted in vivo studies involving diverse dosing routes (oral gavage, subcutaneous, intravenous, intraperitoneal, intramuscular), blood collection techniques, various clinical observations, and specialized technical work including necropsy, ophthalmic exams, telemetry, ECG, and urine collection.
- Managed study endpoints for toxicology, safety pharmacology, and DART studies, interpreting data related to ADA, cytokines, immunophenotyping, FOBs, respiratory assessments, and clinical pathology.
- Provided input on study design, dose selection, endpoints, resourcing, and scheduling, ensuring alignment with regulatory and scientific goals.
- Oversaw data collection systems, ensuring accurate protocol entry and management of cardiovascular, toxicokinetic, and study data.
- Reviewed and authored protocols, amendments, deviations, and final reports, as well as departmental SOPs for non-GLP and GLP studies.
- Developed, validated, and implemented in vivo methods to enhance animal welfare, data quality, and toxicology interpretation, such as stress biomarker urine collection and a flush system for intravenous dosing.
- Presented complex data and methodologies to team leaders and executives; trained and mentored teams in in vivo skills.

PUBLICATIONS

Book Publications

McEntee, D. (2025). *Data Is Not Strategy: Why Interpretation, Not Volume, Drives Nonclinical Decisions*. ISBN 979-8241480118.

Journal Publications

McEntee D, Borg K, Markiewicz V. (2016). Establishment of a Home-cage, In Vivo Method of New Zealand White Rabbit Urine Collection. *Laboratory Animal Science Professional*.

Abstract Publications

Galand et al. (2025). Bempikibart, a Novel Human IL-7R α Antagonist Inhibiting IL-7 and TSLP Signaling, Demonstrated Robust Impact on T-cell Maintenance and Th2 Responses in T-cell Driven Skin Disease. 6th Inflammatory Skin Disease Summit (ISDS).

Courses and Educational Programs

McEntee, D. (2025). *The Complete Guide to Nonclinical Development*. Nonclinical Academy. Online professional course covering nonclinical drug development through IND.

PRESENTATIONS AND INVITED LECTURES

Webinar, “Regulatory Pathways: Navigating FDA and PMDA for Global Approval,” BioLabs and Astellas, August 2026

Panel Discussion, “Single-Track CRO Process Automates Generation of Study Report & SEND,” SOT Annual Meeting, March 2026

Panel Discussion, “Empowering Toxicologists with Access to Near-Real Time Study Data through Interim Study Monitoring: The Sponsor's Perspective,” SOT Annual Meeting, March 2022

Webinar, “Interim Study Monitoring and Generation of Analysis-Ready, Submission Quality SEND Datasets,” PointCross Life Sciences, October 2021

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Roundtable of Toxicology Consultants (RTC)

Member, 2025-Present

American College of Toxicology (ACT)

Podcast Subcommittee, 2021-Present

Member, 2014-Present

Society of Toxicology (SOT)

Member, 2014-Present

American Society for Cellular and Computational Toxicology (ASCCT)

Member, 2022-Present

Clinical Data Interchange Standards Consortium (CDISC)

Core Team Member, 2019-Present

Safety Pharmacology Subteam Member, 2019-Present