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We are thrilled to have the opportunity to share our work with you today. A key mission of WSU is to advance knowledge through creative research and to extend that knowledge to the community, both the scientific community through research papers and to the general public through presentations and school visits. **Dr. Mel Netzhammer** is our esteemed University Chancellor. He is committed to promoting excellence in research across disciplines, from the sciences to the humanities.

We have hundreds of billions of brain cells in our head! With this many interconnected cells, it's not surprising that there are over 1,000 brain and nervous system diseases and disorders, which create a huge emotional and financial burden on our country. It turns out that a simple change in the activity of these cells may be the underlying cause of many chronic pain conditions including arthritis and migraine, the most common neurological disorder in the world. My work focuses on the therapeutic potential of opioids and cannabinoids, the molecules found in marijuana, in hopes of improving the lives of the millions of chronic pain and migraine sufferers around the country.

At WSU Vancouver we focus on drug addiction, hearing, and the basic biology of how individual cells develop as they relate to certain cancers. Today we've brought highly talented and highly committed students who conduct research in biomedical labs at WSU Vancouver that have been supported by federal grants. These students also go into the community through NW Noggin and let others know what they're discovering about the brain. Please ask them any questions you have - I'd like to let a few of them introduce themselves to you first.