

# Allen Thomas

## **Biographical Information:**

After receiving a PhD in organic chemistry under the mentorship of Two-Time Chemistry Nobel Laureate K. Barry Sharpless at The Scripps Research Institute, I worked in the pharmaceutical industry at Array BioPharma in Boulder, Colorado for 13 years. I have a consistent track record of scholarship involving innovative organic synthesis methodology and medicinal chemistry that has resulted in 28 peer-reviewed publications, 10 issued patents, and 7 patent applications. While in industry, I managed multiple junior scientists in lead optimization campaigns. I was part of a collaborative research team between Array and Genentech that was successful in the discovery of a small molecule kinase inhibitor that progressed to human clinical trials for cancer (GDC-0994; ERK inhibitor). In addition to my research background, I have extensive experience collaborating across disciplines and organizations. While at Array, I routinely interacted with scientists at companies such as AVEO, ISEC, and Genentech to generate ideas and overcome project challenges.

Since moving to UNK in 2014, I have established myself as an excellent teacher–scholar. I have continued to collaborate with scientists from other institutions and disciplines. For example, in my two NIH-funded projects, I have collaborated with faculty at UNK, UCSF, Icahn School of Medicine at Mt. Sinai, Northwestern and Harvard Medical School. I have been recognized for outstanding research and mentoring by receiving the Faculty Mentoring of Undergraduates Award from my college in 2020; and in 2021, I received the Pratt-Heins Foundation Faculty Award for Scholarship, awarded once per year to a UNK faculty member. This past year, I was appointed to the Donald E. Fox endowed chair within the chemistry department.

In addition to my service to Sigma Xi as described above, I have a strong service record at the university level including previous membership in UNK Faculty Senate and currently in my college's Oversight Committee. I also served as Lead Negotiator for UNK's Faculty Union, in which I spent a semester negotiating salary and benefits with administration. I also served as the chair of the University of Nebraska President's Faculty Excellence Awards Committee to select recipients for these prestigious, system-wide awards.