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University of

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Developing novel medicines to heal the brain

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Dear [informal salutation],

David Olson, associate professor of chemistry, biochemistry and molecular medicine, and Chancellor's Fellow, is leading the charge at the Institute for Psychedelics and Neurotherapeutics (IPN) to develop novel medicines that physically heal the brain after only one or a few doses.

The IPN is advancing basic knowledge about the mechanisms of psychedelics and translating it into safe and effective treatments for diseases such as depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, addiction, Alzheimer's disease and Parkinson's disease, among others.

"The IPN is pioneering a paradigm shift in mental healthcare focusing on healing damaged neural circuitry rather than masking disease symptoms," Olson said. "My main goal is to find a safe, scalable, and effective treatment for the nearly 1 billion people worldwide suffering from conditions involving neuronal atrophy."

The Chancellor's Fellows program, supported in part by the Annual Fund, advances UC Davis as an innovation leader and prepares students to address our greatest challenges, now and in the future.

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"The Chancellor's Fellows award gives me the flexibility to pursue high risk, high reward research questions as they arise, which drastically accelerates discovery."

DR. DAVID OLSON
CHANCELLOR'S FELLOW