### Basic research lays the mechanistic foundation for medical breakthroughs

#### cardiovascular disease



Statins inhibit HMG-CoA reductase, a rate controlling enzyme for cholesterol biosynthesis



cystic fibrosis

gating mutations (G551D) trafficking mutations ( $\Delta$ F508)

Trikafta corrects these two main defects

cancer



Gleevac inhibits the Abl kinase, which is aberrantly activated in CML

"... development of Gleevec taught scientists that by understanding the biology of a disease, it is possible to learn how to treat or cure that disease."

#### Nature Education 1:37

# Challenge: develop analgesics that selectively target pain circuits



## Chronic pain – clinically and mechanistically distinct syndromes



## Mechanistic insights into visceral pain (IBS or endometriosis)





Gut Enterochromaffin Cells Drive Visceral Pain and Anxiety Bayrer et. al. *Nature* 2023 Nociceptor-to-macrophage communication through CGRP/RAMP1 signaling drives endometriosisassociated pain and lesion growth in mice Fattori et. al. *Sci. Trans. Med.* 2024

#### Basic mechanistic insights are transforming our understanding of acute and chronic pain



adapted from Bourinet et al. 2014 and St. John Smith and Lee 2023