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Emilie’s climactic change in character recalls the very stuff of alchemy—a transformation that can be imagined but not reasonably effected. Although the character’s development perhaps satisfies the need to bring the story to a satisfactory conclusion, I was struck by its artifice. Perhaps the contemporaneously set Galileo’s Daughter led me to expect more of a scientifically educated young woman than the sex, lies, and phlogiston that revolve around The Alchemist’s Daughter. Admittedly, Galileo’s Daughter is a biography, and its author, Dava Sobel, sets an unusually high standard for historical scholarship. In the present case, Katharine McMahon acknowledges eighteenth-century realities, such as slave trade and infant mortality rates, but in writing a piece of fiction, she is perhaps not obligated to aspire to a high degree of rigor in developing historical references and descriptions. Still, comparison of the two books is inevitable, and even in terms of narrative appeal alone, Sobel’s book excels. And in terms of science, Galileo’s Daughter is by far a greater whiz than The Alchemist’s.

Katharine McMahon, of England, has taught in secondary schools and lectured in writing skills at the Universities of Hertfordshire and Warwick. doi:10.1124/mi.7.5.9

Christie Carrico, PhD, is Executive Officer for ASPET.
GRADUATE PROGRAMS

GRADUATE PROGRAMS IN BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES (BIMS) • PHD PROGRAMS IN PHARMACOLOGY AND NEUROSCIENCE • UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

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PHARMACOLOGY AND INTERDISCIPLINARY TOXICOLOGY GRADUATE PROGRAMS • UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS FOR MEDICAL SCIENCES

The Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology at UAMS in Little Rock, Arkansas, invites those interested in earning the PhD degree in Pharmacology or Interdisciplinary Toxicology to learn more about these programs at http://www.uams.edu/pharmtox. The department offers research emphasis areas in cardiovascular pharmacology and hypertension research, neuropharmacology and neurodegenerative disease, behavioral pharmacology and drug abuse therapy, hepatic and renal pharmacology and toxicology, and oxidative stress. We offer all our students a competitive stipend and tuition waiver. For additional information call Dr. Philip Mayeux at 501-686-8895 or e-mail at prmayeux@uams.edu.

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The College of Pharmacy’s
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provides training leading to the Ph.D. degree in Pharmacology & Toxicology. The program trains students in state-of-the-art approaches in basic research in pharmacology, toxicology, environmental toxicology, chemical pharmacology, and proteomics and closely related sub-disciplines. It prepares students for careers in independent research or related careers in academia or government. For more information: www.pharmacy.arizona.edu/programs/graduate/pharmtox
UCSD began graduate studies in Pharmacology at UCSD not long after the start of the School of Medicine in 1968. An NIGMS Pre-doctoral Training Grant was awarded in 1974 and continues to be one of the largest support mechanisms for students with interests in the pharmacological sciences. More than 120 students have received Ph.D. degrees with Pharmacology faculty and have risen to positions of prestige and leadership in academic institutions and the pharmaceutical industry. Pharmacology became the first basic science department in the School of Medicine in 1985 and now boasts a distinguished faculty well represented in the National Academy of Science and the Institute of Medicine. The Skaggs School of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences (SSPPS) opened in 2000, making UCSD the first research-intensive institution to establish a school of pharmacy in several decades. Students interested in training opportunities in pharmacology should apply through the Biomedical Sciences Graduate Program:

Department of Pharmacology
University of California, San Diego
9500 Gilman Drive, Dept. 0636
La Jolla, California 92093-0636
http://pharmacology.ucsd.edu

Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences
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For more information, contact:
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The Department of Pharmacology offers a broad training program for Ph.D. students in pharmacological sciences including behavioral neuroscience and molecular biology. The primary research areas include the Neurobiology of Addiction and Signaling Systems and Transcriptional Regulation in Cardiovascular and Metabolic Disease. The Department has a number of well funded faculty and excellent physical facilities. Interested applicants should apply through the Interdisciplinary Program for Biological Sciences (IPBS) at www.utmem.edu/grad/IPBS/index.html. For further information regarding the graduate program and admission requirements contact Dr. Edwards Park at epark@utmem.edu

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