Roberta Diaz Brinton, Ph.D. is the Vanderveen Chair in Therapeutic Discovery and Development at the University of Southern California, where she is Professor of Pharmacology and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Biomedical Engineering and Neurology. Dr. Brinton directs the Norris Foundation Laboratory for Neuroscience Research and the USC STAR Science Education Program. She is internationally recognized as an innovative leader in Alzheimer’s research and development of therapeutics to prevent, delay and treat the disease.

Research in the Brinton laboratory focuses on discovery of why the brain can develop Alzheimer’s and on translating those discoveries into therapeutics to prevent, delay and treat the disease. Of particular focus is the aging female brain and elucidating mechanisms that underlie the two-fold greater lifetime risk of Alzheimer’s disease in women. Brinton has developed therapeutics that restore energy production and neural stem cell regeneration in the brain to prevent and treat Alzheimer’s. Outcomes of her discovery and translational research have led to two NIH funded clinical trials PhytoSERMs for memory complaints in women and Allopregnanolone as regenerative therapeutic for Alzheimer’s.

Dr. Brinton’s research has been continuously funded by NIH from her pre-doctoral years to the present. Current funders of her research include the National Institute on Aging, Alzheimer’s Drug Discovery Foundation, and Paul Slavik Trust. She has over 180 publications and holds multiple patents targeting Alzheimer’s disease, neurodegenerative diseases and sustaining neurological health during aging.

Dr. Brinton was awarded the Alzheimer’s Drug Discovery Foundation Scientist of the Year, Woman of the Year by the California State Senate, Science Educator of the Year by the Society for Neuroscience and Los Angeles Magazine Woman of the Year. She was also recognized as one of the Ten Best Minds by US News and World Report. For her decades of commitment to science education for inner city youth of Los Angeles, Dr. Brinton received the Presidential Citizens Medal. Her research has appeared in the New York Times, in over 100 global media outlets including ABC, CBS and Science Friday.

