The process of identifying a new drug to treat a medical need is a lengthy and complex process, involving a variety of disciplines. From the inception of a hypothesis implicating a biological target in a particular disease to the identification of a chemical or biological entity that effectively intervenes in the role of that target requires a multi-disciplinary effort from biologists, chemists, pharmacologists, pharmacists and toxicologists. This presentation will provide an overview of the steps and hurdles that need to be overcome to achieve such a goal, and also touches on some of the other roles that are critical to a successful drug launch.