


TO: The University Community

FROM: Craig K. Svensson
Dean 

SUBJECT: Appointment of New Associate and Assistant Deans

DATE: June 22, 2007

I am pleased to announce two administrative appointments in the College of Pharmacy, Nursing, and Health Sciences. Dr. Val Watts has accepted an appointment as Associate Dean for Research, while Dr. Eric Barker has accepted an appointment as Assistant Dean for Graduate Programs. Both appointments are effective July 15, 2007. These appointments are to coincide with the return of Dr. Marc Loudon to the faculty after nearly two decades of outstanding service to the College as Senior Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Programs. Following a six month sabbatical, Dr. Loudon will return to his duties as a faculty member in the Department of Medicinal Chemistry and Molecular Pharmacology.

Dr. Val Watts received his BS in Pharmacy from Ohio Northern University, followed by his PhD in Pharmacology from the University of North Carolina. Following postdoctoral study in the laboratory of Dr. Kim Neve at the Oregon Health Sciences University, he joined the faculty of the Department of Medicinal Chemistry and Molecular Pharmacology at Purdue. Dr. Watts' research is focused on the signaling properties of G protein-coupled receptors with an emphasis on dopamine receptor systems. As Associate Dean for Research, he will devote 50% of his effort providing leadership for the research programs of the College.

Dr. Eric Barker received his BS in Pharmacy from the St. Louis College of Pharmacy, after which he earned his PhD in Pharmacology from Vanderbilt University. He joined the Department of Medicinal Chemistry and Molecular Pharmacology following postdoctoral experiences at Emory and Vanderbilt. Dr. Barker's research interests are focused on the molecular pharmacology of antidepressant- and cocaine-sensitive serotonin transporters. He also has an active program in the area of endogenous cannabinoid transport. Dr. Barker will devote 30% of his time as Assistant Dean for Graduate Programs to provide leadership and coordination for the varied graduate programs of the College.

I am delighted to have Drs. Watts and Barker join our administrative team in the College and look forward to their contributions. I also wish to express sincere thanks for the many years of dedicated service provide by Dr. Marc Loudon. The extent of his service is revealed by the fact that it will take two individuals to assume his duties!