

TO: The University Community

FROM: Craig K. Svensson
Dean 

SUBJECT: Appointment of New Associate Deans

DATE: April 22, 2010

I am pleased to announce two administrative appointments in the College of Pharmacy, both effective July 1, 2010. Dr. Eric Barker has accepted an appointment as Associate Dean for Research, while Dr. Robert Geahlen has accepted an appointment as Associate Dean for Graduate Programs. These appointments are to coincide with the return of Dr. Val Watts to the faculty after three years of outstanding service to the College of Pharmacy, Nursing, and Health Sciences as Associate Dean for Research.

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 maintains an NIH-funded research program with a focus on the molecular pharmacology of antidepressant- and cocaine-sensitive serotonin transporters. He also has an active program in the area of endogenous cannabinoid transport. For the past three years, Dr. Barker has served as Assistant Dean for Graduate Programs. He will devote 45% of his time as Associate Dean for Research providing leadership for the research programs of the College

Dr. Robert Geahlen received his BS in Chemistry and Biology from Colorado State University and his PhD in Biochemistry at the University of Wyoming. He completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Washington prior to joining the Department of Medicinal Chemistry and Molecular Pharmacology at Purdue. Dr. Geahlen's NIH-funded research program is focused on understanding the regulation and impact of tyrosine phosphorylation on cell signaling, with a particular emphasis on immune competent cells. As Associate Dean for Graduate Programs, he will devote 25% of his time providing leadership and coordination for the varied graduate programs of the College.

I am delighted to have Dr. Barker continue to serve and Dr. Geahlen to join our administrative team in the College and look forward to their contributions in their respective areas of responsibility. I also wish to express sincere thanks for dedicated service provided by Dr. Val Watts.