September 24, 2013

Dear TTUHSC Community,

Following an extensive national search, I am pleased to announce the appointment of P. Michael Conn, Ph.D. as senior vice president for research and associate provost at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, effective on or around December 1, 2013. Dr. Conn will hold the rank of professor in the School of Medicine’s Department of Internal Medicine, with a joint appointment in the Department of Cell Biology and Biochemistry.

Dr. Conn comes to TTUHSC from the Oregon Health and Science University where he serves as the director of Research Advocacy and professor of Physiology and Pharmacology, Obstetrics and Gynecology and Cell Biology and Development. In addition, he serves as senior scientist of the Oregon National Primate Research Center (ONPRC). Dr. Conn received a bachelor’s degree and teaching certification from the University of Michigan, a master’s of science from North Carolina State University, and a doctor of philosophy from Baylor College of Medicine. Dr. Conn completed a fellowship at the NIH then joined the faculty in the Department of Pharmacology, Duke University Medical Center. From 1984 to 1994, he headed the Department Pharmacology at the University of Iowa College of Medicine.

Best known for his research on the cellular and molecular basis of action of gonadotropin releasing hormone and its receptor and therapeutic approaches that restore misfolded proteins to function, Dr. Conn’s work has led to the formulation of drugs that have benefitted humans and animals. He has authored or co-authored nearly 350 publications in this area and written or edited more than 200 books, including texts in neurosciences, molecular biology and endocrinology.

Dr. Conn has served as the editor of many professional journals and book series (Endocrinology, Journal of Clinical Endocrinology and Metabolism, Endocrine, Methods, Progress in Molecular Biology and Translational Science, Contemporary Endocrinology, Molecular and Cellular Neuroscience). He served on the National Board of Medical Examiners, which included two years as chairman of the reproduction and endocrinology committee. The work of his laboratory has been recognized with a MERIT award from the NIH, the J.J. Abel Award of the American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics, the Weitzman, Oppenheimer and Ingbar Awards of the Endocrine Society, the National Science Medal of Mexico (the Miguel Aleman Prize) and the Stevenson Award of Canada. He is the recipient of the Oregon State Award for Discovery, the Media Award of the American College of Neuropsychopharmacology and he was named a distinguished alumnus of Baylor College of Medicine in 2012.

A former member of the Council for the American Society for Cell Biology and the Endocrine Society, Dr. Conn served as president of the Endocrine Society, founding the Hormone Foundation and worked with political leadership to heighten the public’s awareness of diabetes. He is a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Many of Dr. Conn’s students and
fellows have gone on to become leaders in industry and academia.

I would like to thank James (Jim) Hutson, Ph.D. for his service as interim vice president for research. His management and guidance of this important function, especially with the establishment of the freestanding Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center at El Paso, were invaluable. I would also like to extend my appreciation to the members of the search committee led by Matthew Grisham, Ph.D., chair of the Department of Immunology and Molecular Microbiology, for their hard work and diligence in identifying candidates with the vision and capability to enhance our research efforts.

Please join me in extending a warm welcome to Dr. Conn. His passion for the discovery of knowledge will set a great course in our quest to become a comprehensive research university.

Sincerely,

Tedd L. Mitchell, M.D.
President
Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center