Lance R. McMahon, PhD, is Professor and Chair of the Department of Pharmacodynamics at the University of Florida College of Pharmacy. During his leadership as chair, the departmental faculty tripled in number and their external research funding quadrupled. Dr. McMahon attributes this remarkable growth and research success to the department’s collegial spirit, a shared vision with university administration, and the strategic investment of university funds, equipment, and space. Research success in the department was unanimous for several years, with all 11 of the tenured/tenure-track pharmacodynamics faculty members serving as PI on at least one NIH R-type grant at the same time. Departmental excellence extended to the classroom, to include a highly coveted Teacher of the Year award. Faculty service included key roles on several college and university committees, and national service including regular memberships on several NIH study sections and leadership positions within top scientific organizations.

Dr. McMahon is firmly committed to building strategic research partnerships. Along with faculty colleagues, he has created a multidisciplinary academic drug discovery and development platform focused on CNS acting natural products and synthetic derivatives. Dr. McMahon actively supports numerous centers and institutes. He currently serves on the executive board of the McKnight Brain Institute and is scientific advisor for the Center for Addiction Research and Education at the University of Florida. The Center for Integrative Cardiovascular and Metabolic Diseases is housed within his home department, and his departmental colleagues play key roles in several institutes and centers including the Center for Natural Products Drug Discovery and Development, Cancer Center, Genetics Institute, and Center for Pharmacometrics and Systems Pharmacology.

Prior to joining the University of Florida, Dr. McMahon was a Tenured Associate Professor of Pharmacology at the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio. He obtained a PhD in Behavioral Neuroscience from Texas A&M University, and was a postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston. In addition to past and current faculty appointments in medicine and pharmacy, he has taught pharmacology and neuroscience to PhD, medical, pharmacy, dental, physician assistant and physical therapy students. He has been continuously funded by the NIH since 2003 as PI of six R01 grants, one R21, and two U grants for a total of $21M in funding. He has published 113 peer-reviewed papers focusing on CNS acting drugs. Dr. McMahon is currently a regular member of NIH study section. He has served on division executive boards within the American Society of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics, as programming committee chair for the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists, and as Editor for two peer-reviewed journals: International Journal of Neuropsychopharmacology and Pharmacology, Biochemistry, and Behavior.

Dr. McMahon is a native Texan with deep roots in San Antonio, where he met his wife of 25 years, Brenda McMahon, MD, an assistant professor in the Department of Community Health and Family Medicine at the University of Florida. They have three children: Leah is enrolled in the clinical psychology PhD program at the University of Texas at Austin, Jacob is a computer engineering undergraduate at Florida State University, and Julia is a year away from embarking on her college journey.