

UT Southwestern Medical Center

Announcement of New Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs, Provost, and Dean, UT Southwestern Medical School

October 30, 2018

To the UT Southwestern Community:

I am very pleased to announce the appointment of W. P. Andrew Lee, M.D., as Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs, Provost, and Dean, UT Southwestern Medical School, effective February 4, 2019. His appointment concludes an extensive national search initiated following Dr. Greg Fitz's decision to step down from the EVP/Provost/Dean position to return to the faculty in March.

Dr. Lee is currently Director (Chair) of the Department of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. The defining characteristics of his career have been his commitment to innovation; to compassionate, patient-centric care; and to translational research.

Dr. Lee will bring to UT Southwestern a strong record of leadership, innovation, and extraordinary accomplishment, as well as a deep commitment to our tripartite mission of promoting health and a healthy society that enables achievement of full human potential. I am confident that Dr. Lee's vision, values, and experience will help elevate our academic efforts and reputation for many years to come.

Internationally known for his expertise and accomplishments as a hand and transplant surgeon, Dr. Lee led the surgical team that performed the first double hand transplant and the first above-elbow arm transplant in the U.S. His team has also performed numerous hand and arm transplants to restore functions to military personnel who have had upper extremity amputations as a result of combat injuries. Most recently, he led a team of 12 surgeons in performing the world's first total penis and scrotum transplant on a veteran who had sustained blast injuries from an explosive device.

Dr. Lee's research has focused on investigations of tolerance strategies for vascularized composite allotransplantation (VCA) to ameliorate the need for long-term systemic immunosuppression in transplant patients. As part of this effort, after two decades of research, he developed an immunomodulatory protocol in his laboratory that is now successfully used with patients to minimize the long-term risks of VCA surgery. He has been the principal investigator on multiple federal research grants.

Dr. Lee has published extensively in peer-reviewed publications and is the author of 40 textbook chapters on hand surgery and VCA. He has been an invited speaker and visiting professor in institutions around the world and has co-edited the book *Transplantation of Composite Tissue Allografts*, as well as co-founding and serving as co-editor of the journal *Vascularized Composite Allotransplantation*.

Dr. Lee grew up in Taiwan, China and immigrated to the U.S. at the age of 15, with minimal knowledge of English. A quick study and a serious student, he adapted so successfully to his new country that a few years later, he was accepted at Harvard College, where he majored in physics and graduated with

honors. He went on to Medical School at Johns Hopkins and stayed at Hopkins for a general surgery residency. He did his plastic surgery training at Massachusetts General Hospital and completed an orthopedic hand fellowship at the Indiana Hand Center.

Upon completion of his training in 1993, he became a faculty member at Harvard Medical School and was Director of the Plastic Surgery Research Laboratory at Massachusetts General Hospital and Chief of the Hand Surgery Service in the Department of Surgery. He moved to Pittsburgh in 2002 to be Chief of the Division of Plastic Surgery in the Department of Surgery at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine.

Dr. Lee was recruited to Johns Hopkins in 2010 to be the Milton T. Edgerton, M.D. Professor and inaugural Director (Chair) of the Department of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery. Under his leadership, the Department has developed an international reputation for being one of the largest, most innovative, and most academically productive plastic surgery programs in existence.

Dr. Lee has received numerous awards and honors throughout his career, including the inaugural Mentorship Award from the Plastic Surgery Research Council, a Distinguished Alumnus Award from Johns Hopkins University, the Research Achievement Award for Basic Research from the American Association of Plastic Surgeons, and the Andrew J. Weiland Medal for Outstanding Research from the American Society for Surgery of the Hand.

Dr. Lee has been a prominent national leader in his field for many years. Most recently, he has served as President of the American Society for Surgery of the Hand, 2011-2012; as Chair of the American Board of Plastic Surgery, 2012-2013; and as President of the American Society for Reconstructive Transplantation, 2014-2016. Currently, he is the President-Elect of the American Association for Hand Surgery.

I would like to thank the dedicated members of the outstanding Search Committee who worked with me on this national search to get to this successful outcome – Drs. Carlos Arteaga, Kathleen Bell, Michael Brown, Joseph Goldstein, Helen Hobbs, David Johnson, Sean Morrison, Eric Olson, Yan Peng, Julio Perez-Fontan, Sandra Schmid, John Warner, and Herbert Zeh. Thanks also to Dr. Robin Jacoby, Vice President and Chief of Staff, for her exemplary support of the search.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Dr. Dwain Thiele for the outstanding job he is doing as our Interim Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs, Provost, and Dean, UT Southwestern Medical School. We all owe him a great debt of gratitude for the 11 months he will be serving in this position.

I look forward to the entire campus community joining me in welcoming Dr. Andy Lee when he arrives in February to assume this vitally important leadership position at UT Southwestern.

Daniel K. Podolsky, M.D.
President, UT Southwestern Medical Center