

# ACADEMIC CONNECTIONS

THOUGHTS AND UPDATES FROM DR. W. P. ANDREW LEE

April 2, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

After eight years of outstanding service as Chair of the Department of Cell Biology, **Dr. Sandra Schmid** has announced her intention to step down, effective May 31, 2020. Please join me in wishing her all the best as she moves to San Francisco to assume a new position as the inaugural Chief Scientific Officer of the Chan-Zuckerberg Biohub.

In addition to her accomplishments as a Department Chair, Dr. Schmid contributed significantly to institutional issues and activities, within the Basic Sciences and for UT Southwestern overall. She initiated the annual interdepartmental recruitment symposium, which enhanced the success rate in recruiting basic science faculty, and has been actively involved in mentoring at all levels (graduate student, postdoctoral fellows, and junior faculty) through seminars, workshops, and direct discussions.

I am pleased to announce that **Dr. Philipp Scherer**, Professor of Internal Medicine and Cell Biology and Director of the Touchstone Center for Diabetes Research, has agreed to serve as Interim Chair of the Department of Cell Biology, effective June 1, 2020. Dr. Scherer will maintain the forward momentum established by Dr. Schmid, and he will lead and mentor the Cell Biology faculty until a permanent Chair is identified.



The search for the next Chair of Cell Biology will be led by **Duoja (DJ) Pan, Ph.D.**, Professor and Chair of the Department of Physiology. Other members of the Search Committee are:

- **Neal Alto, Ph.D.**, Professor, Department of Microbiology
- **Yuh Min Chook, Ph.D.**, Professor, Department of Pharmacology
- **Joseph Goldstein, M.D.**, Professor and Chair, Department of Molecular Genetics
- **Helen Hobbs, M.D.**, Professor and Director, Eugene McDermott Center for Human Growth and Development
- **Lora Hooper, Ph.D.**, Professor and Chair, Department of Immunology
- **Steve Kliewer, Ph.D.**, Professor, Department of Molecular Biology
- **Sean Morrison, Ph.D.**, Professor and Director, Children's Medical Center Research Institute at UT Southwestern
- **David Russell, Ph.D.**, Vice Provost and Dean of Research (ex officio)

We look forward to identifying a highly qualified leader in scientific discovery to build on Dr. Schmid's accomplishments as Department Chair by carrying on the legacy of impactful research in cell biology at UT Southwestern.



Sincerely,

*Andy*

W. P. Andrew Lee, M.D.

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

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