

ACADEMIC CONNECTIONS

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

March 8, 2023

Dear Colleagues,

I write to share the news that Dwain L. Thiele, M.D., Vice Provost and Senior Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs and Initiatives, Professor in the Department of Internal Medicine, and holder of the Jan and Henri Bromberg Chair in Internal Medicine, has informed me that he plans to step down from his leadership position after his successor is identified.

Dr. Thiele has had a distinguished career marked by scholarship, service, and leadership spanning over 40 years at UT Southwestern. He received his medical degree from Baylor College of Medicine and completed his residency in internal medicine at Duke University School of Medicine. He pursued fellowship training in gastroenterology and hepatology at UT Southwestern and joined the Department of Internal Medicine in 1983.

Dr. Thiele's laboratory research focused on delineating mechanisms of cytotoxic lymphocyte activation, differentiation, and effector function; and exploring the role of these immune effector mechanisms in clearing viral infections from the liver. He has also pursued clinical research directed at enhancing our understanding of acute viral hepatitis, autoimmune hepatitis, and acute hepatitis of unknown etiology.



During his career at UT Southwestern, Dr. Thiele has served in various leadership roles. He assumed his current position as Vice Provost and Senior Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs and Initiatives in 2017. In that role, he has been responsible for budgeting and financial management, strategic planning, and capital and resource allocation to expand opportunities for the growth and development of the faculty and for sustaining and further developing the Medical School.

Dr. Thiele has served as project advocate and UT System liaison for transformative initiatives such as the South Campus Vivarium Building, the North Campus Phase 6 O'Donnell Biomedical Research and Cancer Care Outpatient Buildings, and the East Campus Biomedical Engineering and Sciences Building.

Prior to his current role, Dr. Thiele was Senior Associate Dean for Strategic Development. In addition to his full-time leadership roles, he has been a stalwart in providing vital interim leadership in several capacities when called upon by the institution. These include serving as Interim Chair of Internal

Medicine; Interim Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs, Provost, and Dean of UT Southwestern Medical School; and Interim Chair of the Department of Ophthalmology.

A dedicated educator, Dr. Thiele has been honored twice with the Teacher of the Year award from the UT Southwestern Gastroenterology Training Program. His clinical skills have been recognized in local, regional, and national Best Doctors lists.

Dr. Thiele is an elected member of the American Society for Clinical Investigation, the Association of American Physicians, and a Fellow of the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases.

I am pleased to announce that Jay Horton, M.D., Director of the Center for Human Nutrition, will serve as chair of the committee that will conduct a national search to identify Dr. Thiele's successor. This important search will be launched shortly, and we look forward to receiving faculty input.

Please join me in congratulating Dr. Thiele for his four decades of visionary leadership and extensive contributions across our mission areas.



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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