

ACADEMIC CONNECTIONS

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

November 3, 2023

Dear Colleagues,

I am delighted to announce the appointment of **Martin G. Pomper, M.D., Ph.D.**, as the new Chair of the Department of Radiology, effective Dec. 1. He will hold the Effie and Wofford Cain Distinguished Chair in Diagnostic Imaging.

Dr. Pomper joins us from the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, where he is Professor of Radiology and Radiological Science, Director of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging, Associate Dean of Entrepreneurship and Technology Development, and Director of the Johns Hopkins Center for Translational Molecular Imaging. He also serves as faculty in the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and the Johns Hopkins University Whiting School of Engineering.



A physician-scientist, Dr. Pomper earned his medical degree and Ph.D. in organic chemistry as part of the Medical Scholars Program at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. He completed an internship followed by residencies in diagnostic radiology and nuclear medicine, and a fellowship in neuroradiology at Johns Hopkins.

Dr. Pomper's research interests involve finding chemical solutions to biomedical problems. He focuses on the development of imaging agents for positron emission tomography (PET) in cancer and central nervous system diseases and – in relevant cases – the corresponding molecular radiotherapeutics (theranostics). Supported primarily by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), his laboratory developed the initial small molecules designed to target the prostate-specific membrane antigen (PSMA), the scaffolds of which have been used worldwide for imaging and therapy of prostate and other cancers.

He has served on the Board of Scientific Counselors of the NIH and the Scientific Review Committee of the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT). He co-founded several startup companies and is a member of several industry advisory boards. He served as President of the World Molecular Imaging Society and as the inaugural President of the Molecular Imaging Center of Excellence of the Society of Nuclear Medicine.

In 2017, Dr. Pomper was elected to the National Academy of Medicine for his work in imaging sciences, and in 2021 he was elected to the National Academy of Inventors in part for his work leading to FDA approval of PYLARIFY® for imaging prostate cancer. His contributions to the field have been recognized with the Paul C. Aebersold Award from the Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging, the Gold Medal from the World Molecular Imaging Society, and the Sam Gambhir Innovation Prize from the International Society for Strategic Studies in Radiology, among other accolades.

A committed educator and mentor, Dr. Pomper has trained scores of medical and graduate students, postdoctoral research associates, visiting scholars, and junior faculty.

I would like to express my deep appreciation to Nader Pouratian, M.D., Ph.D., Chair and Professor of Neurological Surgery, for his service as Chair of the Search Committee, and to all the Search Committee members – Samuel Achilefu, Ph.D., Jorge Bezerra, M.D., Ezra Burstein, M.D., Ph.D., Suzanne Conzen, M.D., Gaudenz Danuser, Ph.D., Anke Henning, Ph.D., Jayanthi Lea, M.D., Larissa Velez, M.D., Andrew Wang, M.D., Adam Yopp, M.D., and Dwain Thiele, M.D. – for the dedication and insights they brought to this comprehensive national search. I would also like to express my gratitude to Ivan Pedrosa, M.D., Ph.D., who served as Interim Chair, for his capable leadership during the Department’s transition.

The multidisciplinary expertise, scientific innovations, and collaborative leadership Dr. Pomper brings will further integrate the Department of Radiology into UT Southwestern’s scientific and clinical enterprise, bringing us closer to being the premier destination for innovative care and medical research nationally and beyond.

Please join me in welcoming Dr. Pomper to Dallas and UT Southwestern.



Sincerely,

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W. P. Andrew Lee, M.D.

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