

# ACADEMIC CONNECTIONS

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

April 19, 2024

Dear Colleagues,

I am delighted to announce the appointment of **Alyssa H. Hasty, Ph.D.**, as the new Vice Provost and Senior Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs and Career Development, effective Aug. 1. She will hold the George A. and Nancy P. Shutt Professorship in Medical Science.

Dr. Hasty joins UT Southwestern from Vanderbilt University, where she is Senior Associate Dean for Faculty in the Basic Sciences, Professor of Molecular Physiology and Biophysics, and holder of the Cornelius Vanderbilt Endowed Chair. She is also a Research Health Scientist at the VA Tennessee Valley Healthcare System.

After completing her undergraduate degree at Tennessee Technological University, Dr. Hasty earned a Ph.D. in pathology from Vanderbilt University. She pursued postdoctoral fellowships at Tokyo University and at Vanderbilt University. In 2001, she joined the Vanderbilt faculty in the Division of Cardiovascular Medicine and in 2003 accepted a tenure track faculty position in Molecular Physiology and Biophysics.

A leader in the field of immunometabolism, Dr. Hasty studies the role of the immune system in obesity-accelerated diseases such as cardiometabolic disease and cancer. For the past 20 years, her research has been continuously funded by entities including the National Institutes of Health, the Department of Veterans Affairs, the American Diabetes Association, the American Heart Association, and the Mark Foundation for Cancer Research. She has published over 120 original papers.

As Senior Associate Dean for Faculty in the Basic Sciences, Dr. Hasty is involved in all aspects of recruiting new faculty members to Vanderbilt and oversees the creation and implementation of programs to promote professional development of trainees and faculty. She led the School of Medicine efforts to revise the criteria for promotion for tenure track, research track, and educator track faculty. Under her leadership, an annual evaluation for nontenure track faculty was established, leading to a doubling of annual promotions for faculty on these tracks.

Using curriculum from the Center for Improvement of Mentored Experience in Research, Dr. Hasty facilitates and organizes mentor training for Vanderbilt faculty. She co-chairs the Dean's Advisory Council for Mental Health and Wellness and serves as co-Principal Investigator (PI) of the Vanderbilt Faculty Institutional Recruitment for Sustainable Transformation (V-FIRST) program and PI of its Faculty Development Core.

In 2017, Dr. Hasty graduated from the Hedwig van Ameringen Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine (ELAM) program – an intensive yearlong program of executive education that prepares senior women faculty members for institutional leadership roles. She is an active member of the Association of American Medical Colleges Group on Faculty Affairs, as well as various scientific societies.



I would like to express my deep appreciation to Jay Horton, M.D., Professor and Director of the Center for Human Nutrition, for his service as Chair of the Search Committee, and to all the Search Committee members – Cecelia Brewington, M.D., Michael Jessen, M.D., Heakyung Kim, M.D., Melissa Kirkwood, M.D., David Mangelsdorf, Ph.D., Sharon Reimold, M.D., Michael Rosen, Ph.D., Stephen Skapek, M.D., and Lance Terada, M.D. – for the dedication and insights they brought to this comprehensive national search.

Dr. Hasty succeeds Dwain Thiele, M.D., who has had dedicated service to the institution for over 40 years, holding various leadership positions prior to his present post, including Senior Associate Dean for Strategic Development, Interim Provost and Dean of the Medical School, and Interim Chair of the Departments of Internal Medicine and Ophthalmology. He also served as project advocate and UT System liaison for transformative initiatives such as the East Campus Texas Instruments Biomedical Engineering and Sciences Building, the North Campus Phase 6 Peter O'Donnell Jr. Biomedical Research Building and Cancer Care Outpatient Building, and the South Campus Vivarium Building.

The proven leadership record Dr. Hasty brings and demonstrated skills enhancing faculty recruitment, development, promotion, and wellness will help further position UT Southwestern as a place where faculty members can thrive professionally and personally.

Please join me in welcoming Dr. Hasty to our UT Southwestern community.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

W. P. Andrew Lee, M.D.

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