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University of Arizona College of Pharmacy Commences National Search for Next Dean

Dec. 18, 2015

In a December 18th memo to faculty, staff, and students of the UA College of Pharmacy, UA Senior Vice President for Health Sciences Dr. Joe G.N. “Skip” Garcia announced the formation of an advisory committee that will coordinate efforts in the school’s national search for its next Dean. In making his announcement, Dr. Garcia highlighted the accomplishments of the College of Pharmacy over the near 30-year tenure of J. Lyle Bootman, PhD.

“As we initiate the search for the next Dean, it is important to reflect on the many achievements of the College that have resulted in bringing the school into the top echelon of all pharmacy schools nationally,” Dr. Garcia said. “It is from this base of strength that we seek a new leader who will continue the positive growth of the College and further solidify our standing as a leader in pharmacy education, practice and research.”

Specific highlights mentioned by Dr. Garcia included:

- For more than 20 years, *US News and World Report* has ranked the College among the top 10 pharmacy schools in the nation.
- The College has maintained a top 20 ranking among NIH-funded pharmacy schools over many years.
- The College has expanded PharmD program enrollment from 80 to 120 per class over last 10 years, without lowering admissions standards or graduation rates.
- The College has established robust international training programs that include multiple learning opportunities abroad for PharmD students, faculty exchanges, institutional participation in international educational affiliations (Japan, Thailand, Costa Rica) and Tucson-based postgraduate training programs with Saudi Arabia.
- The College created the nation’s first university-based, pharmacist-run medication therapy management (MTM) center in 2006. Over the last 10 years, the center has won a national patient care award, a state innovation award, and has emerged as University intellectual-property spin-off company – SinfoníaRx – now the largest provider of MTM services (7 million lives) in the country.

In his memo, Dr. Garcia lauded the College’s leadership team, faculty, students and staff for their positive contributions during a challenging time for

the school. "I am truly impressed by the professionalism demonstrated by the entire College community and for the tremendous show of affection for the College by so many alumni and stakeholder friends," said Dr. Garcia. "This is a wonderful College of Pharmacy that is certain to attract the highest caliber candidates for the Dean's leadership post."

The dean search advisory committee will be co-chaired by Drs. Ken Ramos (UA Associate Vice President for Precision Health Sciences) and Jeff Burgess (Associate Dean for Research in the Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public). Additional search committee members include: Ivo Abraham (Professor of Pharmacy and Director of the Center for Health Outcomes & PharmacoEconomic Research), Samuel Keim (Professor of Medicine and Head, Department of Emergency Medicine), Walter Klimecki (Associate Professor and Interim Head, Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology), Andrew Kraft (Professor of Medicine and Director, UA Cancer Center), Heidi Mansour (Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice & Science), Usha Menon (Professor of Nursing and Associate Dean for Research & Global Advances), Hanna Phan (Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice & Science), Philip Schneider (Professor of Pharmacy and Associate Dean for Academic and Professional Affairs), Theodore Tong (Professor of Pharmacy and Associate Dean for Pharmacy Administration), Todd Vanderah (Professor and Head, Department of Pharmacology), Terri Warholak (Associate Professor of Pharmacy Practice & Science), and Donna Zhang (Professor of Pharmacology and Toxicology).

The search committee's work will begin in January and is anticipated to conclude with the hiring of the new Dean, who will begin on/around July 1, 2016, commensurate with the start of the University's next academic year.

