



Message from Dr. Sachs:

Announcing New Chairs and Faculty Assignments

Dear friends,

It is with great excitement that I announce the appointments of two department chairs to Tulane University School of Medicine, as well as several important changes in the school's administration.

Dr. Tong Wu is the newly appointed Chair of the Department of Pathology and Marguerite Main Zimmerman Chair in Basic Cancer Research. Most recently with the Department of Pathology at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, Dr. Wu was associate professor of pathology in the Division of Transplant and Liver Pathology. He earned an M.D. (1982) from Nantong Medical University in China, where he also completed his residency in pediatrics at Yanchen Hospital. Dr. Wu also earned an M.D. in immunology (1987) from Capital Medical University at Beijing Children's Hospital.

Dr. Wu has authored more than 150 original abstracts and articles, as well as seven book chapters. He has current grants from the National Institute of Health on three projects:

- Project: cPLA₂ and COX-2 in cholangiocarcinoma

Objective: To investigate the pathobiological functions and molecular mechanisms of cPLA₂, COX-2 and PPAR in cholangiocarcinogenesis.

- Project: cPLA₂-alpha, COX-2 and TGF-beta in Liver Cancer

Objective: To investigate the interaction between TGF-beta and prostaglandin signaling pathways in hepatocarcinogenesis

- Project: Prostaglandin Signaling Pathway in Liver Cancer

Objective: To investigate the role of prostaglandins and their receptors in the growth control of hepatocellular carcinoma.

Dr. Marnin Merrick has been named the Chair of the new Department of Radiation Oncology. A radiation oncologist, Dr. Merrick joined Tulane from the University of Kentucky Medical Center and the Markey Cancer Center, where he was clinical director and head of quality assurance. He earned a B.S. from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1980 and his M.D. (1985) from Yale University School of Medicine. Following medical school, he completed a residency in internal medicine at The New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center. He also trained in radiation oncology and hematology-oncology at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania Medical Center and completed a fellowship in radiation oncology at the U. Penn Fox Chase Cancer Center in Philadelphia. Dr. Merrick has authored more than 20 abstracts, articles and book chapters, and is researching the following:

- Randomized Phase III Study of Conventional Whole Breast Irradiation (WBI) versus Partial Breast Irradiation (PBI) for Woman with Stage 0, I, or II Breast Cancer

- A Randomized Phase II/III Study of TNFerade Biologic with 5-FU and Radiation Therapy for First-Line Treatment of Unresectable Locally Advanced Pancreatic Cancer

Several other changes will occur at the School of Medicine:

- **Dr. Bruce Bunnell** has been named Director of the Tulane Center for Gene Therapy. He is also professor of pharmacology and chair of the Division of Gene Therapy at the Tulane National Primate Research Center. His research interests include cell and gene therapies for lysosomal storage diseases, specifically Krabbe's and Sandhoff's disease.

- **Dr. John Clements** has been named Director of the Tulane Center for Infectious Disease. He will continue to serve as Chair of Microbiology and Immunology. His research interests include bacterial pathogenesis, molecular aspects of the host-parasite relationship, and vaccine development.

- **Dr. Prescott Deininger** has been named Director of the Tulane Cancer Center as well as the Joe W. and Dorothy Dorsett Brown Foundation Regents Distinguished Chair in Molecular Cancer Pharmacology. He is also professor of Epidemiology, and adjunct professor of Biochemistry, Pathology, and Human Genetics. He is co-director of the Louisiana Cancer Research Consortium. Dr. Deininger's research is focused on the genetic instability in the human genome.

- **Dr. Byron Crawford** has been named Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs, in addition to serving as chair of the T2 curriculum advisory committee. He is a professor with the Department of Pathology.

- **Dr. Lee Hamm** will assume the responsibilities of the Vice President for Research, and will continue to serve as Executive Vice Dean.

Please join me in welcoming Dr. Wu and Dr. Merrick, as well as congratulating our other Tulane School of Medicine doctors on their new roles.

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