



From the Executive Dean

Improving our Diversity

Diversity of our Faculty, Staff, and student body is essential to developing a welcoming and inclusive environment and to our goal of becoming a top college of pharmacy. It is also an expectation of the people who we serve. Diversity refers not only to race and ethnicity, but also to gender, religion, age, and many other factors. A diverse College will create new ideas and perspectives, and pharmacy graduates who can better serve the populace of South Carolina.

Both of our Universities actively promote and encourage diversity and have organized efforts to promote diversity. While we each individually may value the principles of diversity the College as a whole has had limited success in its efforts to promote diversity. At present, our College has a Faculty, Staff and student body that in many ways does not mirror the population of South Carolina. There are few African-Americans or Hispanics in our ranks. We have a good record of gender equity (recognizing that males are underrepresented in our student body). Of our 8 recent faculty hires, seven have been women. However, we must make a greater effort to have women attain College leadership positions.

Achieving diversity in the College will require concerted efforts of Faculty (including Administration), Staff, and Students. Our efforts will begin now with specific actions to improve our diversity. A Diversity Committee will be formed to recommend a College diversity plan and actions. The Admissions Committee has been charged with identifying specific steps that can be taken to increase the number of minority applicants. Each faculty search committee that is formed will have an Affirmative Action Officer and search committees have already been asked to conduct specific activities to generate applications from minority candidates.

I would like to hear from any of you who wish to serve on the College Diversity Committee.

College News

In the August Newsletter I omitted mentioning the important news that Dr. Sandra Garner was recognized by MUSC with the Distinguished Teaching Award. This is a great honor given in recognition of exceptional teaching accomplishments. Congratulations.

This past year, despite a much more competitive NIH funding environment four of our Faculty members achieved RO1 funding for the first time. These are particularly meritorious in light of funding lines at 10 percentile or below for most institutes. Congratulations to:

Zhi Zhong	"Transplantation of reduced-size fatty livers"
Gary Wright	"Role of Prolyl Hydroxylase Oxygen sensor in cardioprotection"
John Markowitz	"Drug transporters and the disposition of ADHD therapeutic agents"
Shan Ping Yu	"Neuroprotection NR3A in Cultured Neurons and Ischemic Neonates"

Important Dates

September 29th – Homecoming game and College reception at USC

October 9th – SCCP Joint Board of Trustees meeting, 2-5pm, Colcock hall, MUSC

October 16th – USC Pharmacy Career fair

November 17th, SCCP Social – Oyster Roast – Foley Beach

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Joseph DiPio". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a distinct "DiPio" ending.

September 2007