Dear Colleagues,

We are pleased to announce the appointment of **James Collins, Ph.D.**, as the next permanent Chair of the Department of Pharmacology, effective Nov. 1. He will hold the Alfred G. Gilman Distinguished Chair in Pharmacology in addition to the Jane and Bud Smith Distinguished Chair in Medicine.



Dr. Collins joined UT Southwestern in 2014 as an Endowed Scholar. Since then, he has established himself as a highly respected scientist and leader, serving most capably as Interim Chair of Pharmacology following the unexpected passing of David J. Mangelsdorf, Ph.D., last year.

After completing undergraduate studies in biology at Southeast Missouri State University, Dr. Collins earned a Ph.D. from Washington University in St. Louis. He completed his postdoctoral training at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

His research focuses on the parasitic disease schistosomiasis. Second only to malaria as the most lethal parasitic disease, schistosomiasis progresses as female parasitic worms lay millions of eggs inside the host, causing debilitating inflammatory responses and scarring as eggs get trapped in the liver, intestines, or even the brain. Nearly a quarter of a million people in South America, Asia, and sub-Saharan Africa die from schistosomiasis each year.

Dr. Collins was the first to set up the culture conditions to monitor the reproductive cycle of the worms without having to pass it through a host. In doing so, he has transformed the understanding of schistosomes by discovering and isolating the pheromone, or signal, that male worms use to control female sexual development and egg production. By understanding and isolating this signal, Dr. Collins unlocked an important new direction for the field that may bring relief to millions of people worldwide.

In 2024, Dr. Collins was named a Howard Hughes Medical Institute Investigator. He also received the 2023 Edith and Peter O'Donnell Award in Biological Sciences from the Texas Academy of Medicine, Engineering, Science and Technology. In 2018, Dr. Collins was among 11 scientists nationwide to receive grants from the Burroughs Wellcome Fund's Investigators in the Pathogenesis of Infectious Disease award program.

Dr. Collins is a rigorous and accomplished scientist who combines effective leadership with a highly impactful research program of his own. We are confident that, under his leadership, this department will build on its illustrious past and sustain UT Southwestern's tradition of scientific excellence well into the future.

Please join us in congratulating Dr. Collins on his new leadership role.

Sincerely,

W. P. Andrew Lee, M.D.
Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost
Dean, UT Southwestern Medical School

Joan W. Conaway, Ph.D.
Vice Provost and Dean of Basic Science