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Office of the President
June 8, 2010

Members, Board of Trustees:

REAPPOINTMENT TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS
UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY RESEARCH FOUNDATION

Recommendation: that the Board of Trustees approve the reappointment of Hollie Swanson (faculty member) to the Board of Directors of the University of Kentucky Research Foundation (UKRF) for a three-year term ending June 30, 2013.

Background: In accordance with the Bylaws, members of the Board of Directors of the University of Kentucky Research Foundation are appointed by the Board of Trustees to serve three-year terms. The Nominating Committee of the UKRF Board has recommended and the UKRF Board of Directors has endorsed the reappointment of Hollie Swanson.

Action taken: Approved Disapproved Other _____

Hollie I. Swanson, Ph.D.

Dr. Swanson is a Professor in the Department of Molecular and Biomedical Pharmacology. She received her MS from Oregon State University, College of Agriculture, Food Science, and Ph.D. in Food Science/Toxicology from Purdue University, College of Agriculture. She was a postdoctoral fellow at Michigan State University, College of Agriculture, Biochemistry and Northwestern University, College of Medicine, Molecular Pharmacology and Biological Chemistry before coming to the University of Kentucky, College of Medicine in 1995. She has been continuously funded since 1995 by the National Institutes of Health and has also received funding from the American Lung Association, the American Institute for Cancer Research and the American Cancer Society.

Dr. Swanson's research is focused on understanding how environmental contaminants contribute to chronic human diseases. Her ultimate goal is to use that knowledge to develop therapies that would counter these adverse effects. Her specific area of interest is that of the aryl hydrocarbon receptor (AHR) signaling pathway that is known to be involved in cancer, gene regulation and is thought of as an environmental sensor. Chemicals that activate the AHR are present in air pollution, our diet and are probably formed within our own bodies. The goal of her currently funded project, a collaboration with Dr. Kyung-Bo Kim (Associate Professor, College of Pharmacy) is to develop novel drugs that block the AHR. Her second project, performed in collaboration with Dr. Razvan Arsenescu (Associate Professor, Internal Medicine), is focused on understanding how the AHR contributes to the severity of inflammatory bowel disease. This study is being performed using molecular approaches, laboratory animals and samples obtained from patients at the University of Kentucky Chandler Hospital. We hypothesize that the AHR "senses" the presence of bacteria in the gut and in this manner, regulates the inflammatory response. We further hypothesize that blocking the AHR using our novel drugs (i.e., UK Patent Case # 1436) will alleviate the severity of inflammatory bowel disease. Successful outcomes of this research will not only lead to the development of new therapies to treat inflammatory bowel disease, but will also enhance our ability to determine the appropriate therapies to be used for the individual patient.

In addition to teaching and mentoring students at UK, Dr. Swanson has served as a grant reviewer for DOD, NIH, NIEHS and the National Science Foundation. She has also served on the Institute of Medicine, National Academies of Sciences Committee to Review the Health Effects of Vietnam Veterans and is currently serving on the Kentucky Equine Drug Research Council. She is on the editorial board of *Toxicology and Applied Pharmacology* and is a member of the American Association for Cancer Research, American Association of Medical Colleges, Society of Toxicology (Member, Research Committee) and the American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics (Chair-Elect, Drug Metabolism Division). She is currently the Senate Council Chair of the University of Kentucky Senate.