



New Distinguished Professors named at College of Medicine

Four Penn State College of Medicine faculty members were recently honored with the title of University Distinguished Professor.

James R. Connor, professor and vice chair of neurosurgery, is an internationally renowned and long-standing leader in research in the field of iron neurobiology. He has had continuous and extensive external funding to perform research in this and related areas from the National Institutes of Health, the Center for Disease Control and numerous foundations and associations in the industry. He has published 134 peer-reviewed manuscripts in prestigious scientific journals such as *Nature Neuroscience*, *Molecular Cancer Therapeutics* and *Journal of Biological Chemistry*, serves on multiple editorial boards, has received numerous honors and awards and continues to be active in teaching graduate students, medical students and postdoctoral fellows.

Kathryn F. LaNoe, professor of cellular and molecular physiology, has had a long and distinguished research career at Penn State and continues to be a highly active and dedicated member of the faculty after more than 30 years of excellence in teaching, research and service to the institution and University. She is one of the most widely recognized scientists of the College of Medicine faculty around the world, with major accomplishments and groundbreaking discoveries in mitochondrial transport and their role in hormonal control of the liver, kidney, adipose tissue and heart. Her work has advanced the understanding of brain energy metabolism. La Noe's graduate students and postdoctoral fellows have achieved successful careers, and she continues to teach and mentor both medical and graduate students on campus.

Shao-Cong Sun, professor of microbiology and immunology, is a nationally and internationally recognized expert in the field of molecular immunology. His research goal is to understand how the immune system is regulated under physiological and pathological conditions. He has attracted and sustained significant external funding for his research and currently holds three large NIH grants. A prolific scientist, he has published in excess of 66 scholarly articles in the 12 years since joining Penn State in some of the most prestigious scientific journals. Sun has been very active and successful in the education and mentoring of graduate students and postdoctoral fellows and is the chair of the Microbiology and Immunology Graduate Program committee and the course director/lecturer for the "Principles of Immunology" course.

Thomas C. Vary, professor of cellular and molecular physiology, is one the college's most accomplished faculty members. He is an internationally recognized researcher in the control of protein synthesis in skeletal muscle during sepsis. He plays a major leadership role in education as co-director of the Year II Cardiology course and has been active in teaching at all levels including undergraduate, graduate, postdoctoral and junior faculty. His expertise in teaching has been recognized both nationally and internationally through membership of the examination boards for medical students (USMLE Step 1) and graduate students' theses in Canada and Europe. He has also served as a mentor for faculty who received the prestigious R29 Clinical

Mentored Research Grant award and NIH K08 award.

The title of distinguished professor is a reflection of outstanding academic contribution to Penn State. To be nominated for this prestigious recognition, faculty professors must be acknowledged leaders in their field of research; have demonstrated leadership in raising the standards of the University in teaching, research and service and have excellent teaching and mentoring skills.