

# PR 5

Office of the President  
June 17, 2008

Members, Board of Trustees:

APPOINTMENT/REAPPOINTMENT OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY RESEARCH FOUNDATION

Recommendation: that approval be given to the appointment of Hollie Swanson (faculty member) filling an unexpired term ending June 30, 2010 and the reappointment of Henry Jackson (public member) for a three-year term ending June 30, 2011 to the Board of Directors of the University of Kentucky Research Foundation (UKRF).

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 appointment of Hollie Swanson and reappointment of Henry Jackson.

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Action taken:     Approved     Disapproved     Other \_\_\_\_\_

## **Hollie I. Swanson, Ph.D.**

Dr. Swanson is an Associate Professor in the Department of 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 had research funding from the National Institutes of Health, the American Lung Association, the American Institute for Cancer Research and the American Cancer Society.

Dr. Swanson's research is focused on study of the aryl hydrocarbon receptor (AHR) signaling pathway and its role in altering cell fate. The AHR is a basic helix-loop-helix transcription factor that binds toxic compounds such as dioxins. These compounds are pervasive environmental contaminants that are formed during combustion reactions and contain manufacturing processes. While the endogenous ligand for the AHR is not known, the best known AHR agonist is dioxin. One of the long-term goals of Dr. Swanson's research program is determining the mechanisms by which dioxin, via activation of the AHR, results in tumor promotion. These mechanisms can then be exploited to develop unique anti-cancer therapeutics. Known genes that are regulated by the AHR are those involved in drug metabolism, such as cytochrome P4501A1, however her research group is also identifying novel, AHR regulated genes. To understand what genes the AHR regulates under normal conditions and how these genes are altered during dioxin-induced tumor promotion, her research group is using cultured human keratinocytes and keratinocytes obtained from mice that lack the AHR. They have recently discovered that dioxin, via the AHR, downregulates major regulators of the senescence pathway, p53 and p16<sup>INK4a</sup>, block senescence and extends the lifespan of the cells. A second project focuses developing AHR antagonists to be used as therapeutics. Towards that end, Dr. Swanson and her collaborator Dr. Kyung-Bo Kim have a patent (Development of AHR-PROTACS as Antagonists of the Aryl Hydrocarbon Receptor).

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 is currently serving on the Institute of Medicine, National Academies of Sciences Committee to Review the Health Effects of Vietnam Veterans. She been on the editorial board of *Toxicology and Applied Pharmacology* and she is a member of the American Association for Cancer Research, American Association of Medical Colleges and the American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics. She is a member of the University of Kentucky University Senate and Senate Council and serves as Chair of the UK Senate Advisory Committee on Privilege and Tenure.

**Henry L. Jackson**

Mr. Jackson is Chairman and President of Jackson Plastics, Inc. He has over 30 years experience in finance and manufacturing. He was Managing Director of Clark Material Handling Company in Muihaim, Germany and Senior Vice-President and Chief Financial Officer for Clark Material Handling Company in Lexington, Kentucky. He earned his Master of Business Administration from the University of Notre Dame and obtained a Bachelors of Science of Commerce from DePaul University.