From the Desk of the Chancellor

Medicine dean named

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by Charles R. Bantz

Jay L. Hess will become the IU School of Medicine’s 10th dean and the first dean since Willis Gatch stepped down in 1946 to come from outside IU. As was Dr. Gatch, incidentally, Dr. Hess is a graduate of the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine. He will also hold the title of vice president for university clinical affairs. He is currently the Carl V. Weller Professor and Chair of Pathology at the highly acclaimed University of Michigan Health System, where he has been on the faculty of internal medicine since 2005.

Walter J. Daly, M.D., dean of the IU School of Medicine from 1983 to 1995, once wrote: “Educational institutions are like organisms. They have genetic history, ancestors, learned responses, and their futures are conditions by their pasts. . . . That history has made our present. We now become the pioneers who build the future.”[1]

As the leader of the next generation of pioneers, Jay Hess succeeds Craig Brater, who is retiring after 13 years as dean and 27 years at IU. Jay brings to IU’s medical school innovative leadership, academic excellence, a thoughtful style and experience at leading major programs within medical schools. His leadership is collaborative and creative. He knows how to work effectively in a dramatically changing environment for health care and research.

He was selected from a national field of more than 50 external and internal candidates. In addition to being chair of the Department of Pathology, he was the University of Michigan Health System’s director of clinical laboratories and director of sponsored research. As a recognized expert on the genetic and molecular changes that lead to cancer, he was cofounder and chair of the Board of Paradigm, a sequencing-based diagnostics company that is a joint venture between the University of Michigan and the International Genomics Consortium. He played a leadership role in the university’s work to purchase the former Pfizer Research and Development Center in Ann Arbor, Michigan, in 2009.

With such a wide range of experience in education, clinical care, research and development and entrepreneurial projects, I am confident Jay can help leverage the strengths of the School of Medicine and the other life science programs at IUPUI with our partners in Indiana to secure Indiana’s place as a top-five life sciences state.

For a full profile, click here. Comments? Write chancellr@iupui.edu.


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