

School of Graduate Studies in the Health Sciences Mission

The School of Graduate Studies in the Health Sciences at the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson was established in 2001 by the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning. The Graduate Programs in the Health Sciences previously operated under the auspices of the Graduate School of the University of Mississippi. The school offers 13 programs leading to the degrees of Master of Science and Doctor of Philosophy in Biomedical Sciences, Clinical Health Sciences, Biomedical Materials Science and Nursing.

The goals of the School of Graduate Studies in the Health Sciences are to (1) train highly qualified researchers who will make significant contributions to the scientific literature, (2) educate those who will teach the next generation of biomedical scientists and health care professionals; and (3) foster the spirit of scientific inquiry in this institution.

Graduate Studies in the Health Sciences Alumni Chapter Mission

The Graduate Studies in the Health Sciences Alumni Chapter was established in November 2005. General objectives of the School of Graduate Studies in the Health Sciences are to promote the welfare of the university and to enhance the relationship that exists between the university and its alumni. Through their united efforts, the university will develop into a greater educational institution which will serve the people of Mississippi effectively and efficiently.

The purpose of this organization is to promote effective education at the University of Mississippi School of Graduate Studies in Health Sciences and to promote the best understanding between the University of Mississippi, the graduate school and its alumni. These efforts will work to promote the wellness of the University of Mississippi and to cooperate with all other agencies of the school, the state government or private interests.

Office of Alumni Affairs
The University of Mississippi Medical Center
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SCHOOL OF
GRADUATE
STUDIES
IN THE
HEALTH
SCIENCES



DISTINGUISHED
ALUMNI
LECTURE



OCTOBER 24, 2008

Dennis J. O'Callaghan, PhD



Dennis J. O'Callaghan is Boyd Professor, Willis-Knighton Chair of Molecular Biology, and Head (Chairman) of the Department of Microbiology and Immunology at Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center, Shreveport, LA. A native of New Orleans, he received the B. S. from Loyola University in New Orleans in 1962. In 1968, he was awarded the Ph.D. at the University of Mississippi Medical Center and trained under the direction of Dr. Charles C. Randall, a pioneer in virology. He completed postdoctoral studies in viral biochemistry and genetics at the University of Alberta Medical Center with Dr. John Colter and also served there as an Assistant Professor of Biochemistry. He returned to UMMC as an Assistant Professor of Microbiology and Immunology in 1971 and rose to the rank of Professor in 1977. Dr. O'Callaghan was recruited as Professor and Head of the Department of Microbiology and Immunology at LSUHSC-Shreveport in

1984. Dr. O'Callaghan directs a research program on the molecular biology of alphaherpesviruses with emphasis on the mechanisms by which viral regulatory proteins determine whether the outcome of infection is a productive cytocidal infection or a persistent infection. His research program has been funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) for 37 years and also by grants from the National Science Foundation, United States Department of Agriculture, American Cancer Society, and the Grayson Foundation. He was selected as the Willis-Knighton Chair of Molecular Biology in 1995, the first endowed Chair on the Shreveport campus, and was subsequently appointed as the 63rd Boyd Professor of the LSU System, the highest academic honor bestowed to faculty in the state-wide network of nine universities and research centers. In 2000, Dr. O'Callaghan was elected as President of the American Society for Virology (ASV), the largest society devoted to virology. He is a member of more than a dozen national and international scientific societies, including the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, the American Society for Investigative Pathology, the American Association for Cancer Research, and the American Society for Experimental Biology and Medicine. He is an elected Fellow of both the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the Molecular Medicine Society. He is Editor of *Virus Research* and serves on the editorial board of *Virology* and *Recent Research Developments in Virology* and is a former member of the editorial board of the *Journal of Virology*. He serves on the Advisory Panel of the NIH supported Western Center of Excellence in Biodefense and Emerging Infectious Diseases. Over the years, he has chaired or served as member of numerous scientific review panels for the NIH, the American Cancer Society, the American Heart Association, and the United States Department of Agriculture. He also served on the Microbiology Committee of the National Board of Medical Examiners. Dr. O'Callaghan has well-developed mentoring skills refined by years of training a large number of doctoral and post-doctoral scientists, many of whom now serve on the faculties of medical centers and universities or hold leadership positions at biomedical research institutions or biotechnology companies. His tenure in senior leadership positions, his experience in recruiting and developing the careers of junior faculty members, and his expertise in virology have allowed him to develop one of the largest groups of molecular and tumor virologists in the country, which is organized as the Center for Molecular and Tumor Virology. This Center is comprised of 18 faculty members working in all areas of virology and is funded by an \$18 million NIH Center grant.

Dr. O'Callaghan's research addresses the molecular biology of herpesviruses and seeks to understand how the small subset of viral regulatory proteins governs the expression of the viral genome. His work employs a variety of molecular approaches to elucidate the functional domains of viral regulatory proteins, the interactions of viral and cellular proteins, and how these interactions either up-regulate or retard viral gene expression. His ongoing work has revealed that herpesvirus-encoded microRNAs function to regulate the expression of master control genes at the level of viral messenger RNA.

The School of Graduate Studies
in the Health Sciences Alumni Chapter
cordially invites you to attend the

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI LECTURE

"Herpesviruses: So Small, Yet So Complex and Fascinating"

presented by

Dr. Dennis J. O'Callaghan

*Boyd Professor, Willis-Knighton Chair of Molecular Biology,
and Head (Chairman) of the Department of Microbiology and Immunology
at Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center*

Noon on Friday, October 24, 2008
Amphitheatre R153 at the Medical Center



Lunch* provided

Dessert* reception/poster presentations to follow
at the Norman C. Nelson Student Union



RSVP by October 20 to bkrogers@alumni.umsmed.edu.
For more information, call 601-984-1115.

*Off-campus guests may park in Lot D across the street
from the School of Dentistry. The lot is most easily reached
by entering the campus from Lakeland Drive.*

**Sponsored by Graduate Studies in the Health Sciences Alumni Chapter*