



I am pleased to announce the appointment of Elisabeth J. Van Bockstaele, Ph.D., as the founding dean of the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and Professional Studies of Drexel University College of Medicine, effective September 1, 2013.

Dr. Van Bockstaele will join us from Thomas Jefferson University, where she is a tenured professor in the Department of Neuroscience, and the founding director of the Graduate Program in Neuroscience in the Jefferson Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences. She was for several years vice chair for research in the Department of Neurological Surgery of Jefferson Medical College, and has held numerous leadership roles in graduate and medical school courses, including coordinating a dozen graduate courses. She has served as a member of Jefferson University's faculty senate and chaired numerous academic committees.

Dr. Van Bockstaele's research has been consistently funded throughout her career, beginning in 1994 when she was an assistant professor of neuroscience at Cornell University Medical College. She serves as principal investigator on two R01 grants and as PI on subcontracts for three other R01 grants with investigators at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and Temple University. She recently completed a project for a P20 Center Grant with investigators at the University of Pennsylvania. Data collected in her laboratory has been published in over 160 peer-reviewed papers, reviews, and book chapters, and more than 80 symposium proceedings. She has been a member of or chaired several fellowship study sections for the National Institutes of Health, as well as center grant and program project reviews, and recently completed service as chair of a standing NIH study section, Neuroimmunology, Neuroendocrinology, Rhythms and Sleep.

Dr. Van Bockstaele has held a variety of leadership positions in the Society for Neuroscience, the world's largest organization of scientists devoted to understanding the brain and nervous system. She chaired the Membership and Chapters Committee, where she oversaw the development of a five-year strategic plan to enhance member benefits and growth. She was an active member in the Professional Development Working Group where she has organized annual symposia focused on careers beyond academia. She was a founding member of the Society's Committee on Neuroscience Education and Training. Locally, she has served as past president of the Philadelphia Chapter of the Society for

Neuroscience, and previously served as secretary of the Association of Neuroscience Departments and Programs.

The graduate neuroscience program Dr. Van Bockstaele founded at Jefferson was the first interdisciplinary, non-department-based graduate program at the University. She oversaw the development of a curriculum that bridges basic neuroscience and clinical neuroscience, and engaged clinicians in didactic coursework and as mentors of the graduate students. She has a demonstrated commitment to providing a mentoring infrastructure that supports graduate students and fellows in their pursuit of research funding, and several of her own recent pre-doctoral students have obtained NIH pre-doctoral fellowships.

Dr. Van Bockstaele received her Ph.D. and master's degrees in neurobiology from New York University, with a minor in biochemistry and molecular biology, and completed a post-doctoral fellowship at Cornell University Medical College before joining the faculty there. She is a 2010 graduate of our medical school's Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine program for women.

I am confident that under Dr. Van Bockstaele's leadership, the new Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and Professional Studies will fuel the continued growth and development of high-quality graduate programs, be a source of exciting initiatives in interdisciplinary education across Drexel, and earn a place as an elite destination for study.

I would like to thank the members of the search committee, chaired by James Burns, Jr., Ph.D., for their thoughtfulness and diligence. Several excellent candidates were identified during the search, which began last November, and I congratulate the committee on the successful conclusion of a challenging and very important task.

Daniel V. Schidlow, M.D.

*Walter H. and Leonore Annenberg Dean
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