

September 17-18, 2014

**ITEM 164-2005-R0914**

**Authorization to confer the Title of Professor Emeritus of Microbiology & Immunology upon Dr. Algirdas (Al) Jesaitis**

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**THAT**

Upon the occasion of the retirement of Al Jesaitis from the faculty of Montana State University, the Board of Regents wishes to express its appreciation for his service to the University, the Montana University System, and the people of the State of Montana.

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**EXPLANATION**

Dr. Al Jesaitis has contributed to the success of MSU in multiple ways. First, he served as department head of Microbiology (1992-1998) at a time when it represented one of the most productive research units on campus. As a faculty member he contributed to instruction through teaching Hematology and other courses, as well as supporting research projects of both undergraduate and graduate students. His service work for the department, college, university and the profession is outstanding earning him recognition as an MSU College of Letters and Science Distinguished Professor in 2008.

Al contributed to multiple department program type grants and held three different current NIH R01 grants during the peak of his research efforts. Two NIH R01 grants were held for greater than 20 years. Al focused much of his research career on defining the structure and function of the neutrophil microbicidal NADPH oxidase and the neutrophil formyl-peptide chemotactic receptor. Based on this research, Al established his lab as one of the foremost neutrophil biology labs in the world.

He has published 138 excellent papers in highly respected journals, including *Science*, *Cell*, *The Journal of Biological Chemistry*, and *The Journal of Cell Biology* and has been extremely successful in securing continuous extramural funding for this research, including a number of NIH grants. Dr. Jesaitis has an h-index over 40.

Al's research has been instrumental in providing an understanding of the structure and function of the neutrophil flavocytochrome b in the human neutrophil NADPH oxidase system. Indeed, Al was the first to describe and characterize the large subunit of the neutrophil flavocytochrome b and also recognize that this flavocytochrome contained multiple hemes. In addition, Al has characterized the structure and function of the neutrophil N-formyl peptide chemotactic receptor and its associated signal transduction pathways. Clearly, this work has had a very significant impact in the field of neutrophil biology and the understanding of inflammatory processes. Because of the high level of excellence and the importance of his research, Al has brought worldwide recognition to MSU, which in turn has significantly enhanced the research community on this campus over the years. Al has an extensive and successful record of teaching, scholarly scientific research, and service to Montana State University. He greatly deserves the honor to be

recognized as Emeritus Professor. For these and other contributions, the Board of Regents of Higher Education is pleased to confer on Dr. Al Jesaitis the rank of Professor Emeritus of Microbiology & Immunology at Montana State University and wish him well for many years in the future.

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**ATTACHMENTS**

No Attachments