

May 17-18, 2023

**ITEM 206-1006-R0523**

**Request for Authorization to Confer the Title of Professor Emeritus of Biomedical and Pharmaceutical Sciences on Dr. Diana I. Lurie; University of Montana-Missoula**

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**THAT**

Upon the occasion of the retirement of Diana I. Lurie from the University of Montana, the faculty wishes to express its appreciation for her 27 years of committed and highly valued service to the University and the State of Montana by recommending that the rank of Professor Emerita be conferred upon her by the Board of Regents of the Montana University System.

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**EXPLANATION**

Dr. Diana I. Lurie retired as a Full Professor in the Skaggs School of Pharmacy effective August 20, 2022. She served as a Research Assistant Professor, Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, and Full Professor during her tenure at the University of Montana.

Dr. Lurie received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Neuroscience from Wesleyan University in 1984. She obtained her PhD in Neuroscience from the University of Pennsylvania in 1989 and completed a postdoctoral fellowship (1990-1995) in the Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery at the University of Washington with Dr. Edwin Rubel and Dr. Eddie Fisher (winner of the Nobel prize in medicine). Dr. Lurie joined the faculty of the Skaggs School of Pharmacy in 1995 and was promoted to Full Professor in 2008. She was also a Full Affiliate Professor at the University of Washington.

Dr. Lurie received seven merit awards during her career at UM, demonstrating her outstanding performance as a faculty member. Dr. Lurie's major teaching responsibilities within the School of Pharmacy included Pharmaceutical Pathophysiology (served as course director), Pharmaceutical Sciences Lab (served as course director), as well as teaching in five additional courses. She lectured in courses for the Honors College, the School of Physical Therapy, and the College of Humanities and Sciences, and internationally for the Janki Devi Memorial College (University of Delhi). Dr. Lurie introduced the integrative medical system of Ayurveda to UM with a very popular course entitled "Ayurvedic Medicine" open to both pharmacy students and other students across campus. Dr. Lurie was instrumental in developing the Neuroscience PhD program and she was the first Director of the Neuroscience Graduate program. She developed the foundational Neuroscience I and II graduate courses, as well as two additional graduate courses. Dr. Lurie routinely received excellent student evaluations for her teaching.

Dr. Lurie's research focused on CNS injury including stroke and neuroinflammation. Recent work examined the ability of Ayurvedic medicinal plant extracts to reduce inflammation in brain cells. This work led to collaborations with Laila Pharma in India, where she traveled to give seminars and conduct research. At UM, Dr. Lurie obtained over six million dollars in funding from both external and internal sources including the National Institute of Health and the National Science Foundation. Major grants included an NIH R29 (First Award similar to a R01), an NIH R21, Co-PI on a 10-year NSF ADVANCE grant, and Core Facilities Director (Molecular Histology and Imaging core) on two COBRE grants (NIEHS, CFSN). She collaborated on numerous grants with PIs both at UM and at other institutions and received industry funding from Laila Pharma and the Montana Board of Research and Commercialization Technology. Dr. Lurie has authored thirty-nine publications to date, the majority of which are either first or last authored papers and book chapters. She published over 20 science columns for the Ayurveda Journal of Health. Dr. Lurie authored 46 abstracts and has given 62 invited presentations that include talks, podcasts, and television shows

nationally and internationally. Dr. Lurie has been a grant reviewer for many organizations including the NIH, the Austrian Government, and the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy. She trained over 20 undergraduate and graduate students in her laboratory and matriculated four PhD students and two Masters students.

Dr. Lurie served in many leadership capacities. At UM, she served as Director of the Pre-medical Sciences program, Director of the Neurosciences Graduate Program, and Director of the Molecular Histology and Imaging Core. She served on 17 University-wide Committees including the University Appeals Committee and the Sabbatical Committee. She also served on 14 School of Pharmacy Committees and was a committee member for 20 graduate students. Dr. Lurie served as the President of the Montana Academy of Sciences and she currently serves as Chair of the National Ayurvedic Medical Association Certification Board, a post she has held for the last three years. Dr. Lurie was the Editor-in-Chief for the Ayurveda Journal of Health for five years, and continues to serve on their editorial board, as well as the boards of several additional PubMed indexed Ayurveda Journals. Dr. Lurie is a well-respected figure in the international Ayurvedic Community; and is regularly invited to give seminars internationally, review academic Ayurvedic programs, and leads the effort in the United States towards the licensure of Ayurveda as an integrative medical practice.

The University of Montana has been well represented by Dr. Lurie at the local, national, and international levels. She is highly regarded by students, fellow faculty, and national/international colleagues. The Department of Biomedical and Pharmaceutical Sciences is pleased to enthusiastically nominate Dr. Diana I. Lurie for Professor Emerita status.

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## **ATTACHMENTS**

None