

May 21, 2025

ITEM 218-1001-R0525

Request for Authorization to Confer the Title of Professor Emeritus of the Department of Biomedical and Pharmaceuticals Sciences on Dr. Nicholas R. Natale; University of Montana-Missoula

THAT

Upon the occasion of the retirement of Dr. Nicholas R. Natale from the faculty of The University of Montana, the faculty wishes to express its appreciation for his years of dedicated and valued service to the University and the State of Montana by recommending that the rank of Professor Emeritus be conferred upon him by the Board of Regents of the Montana University System.

EXPLANATION

Dr. Nicholas R. Natale earned his PhD in Chemistry at Drexel University and conducted postdoctoral research at Colorado State University before joining the faculty at the University of Idaho in 1981. He rose through the ranks to full Professor and later continued his distinguished career at the University of Montana, serving as Professor of Medicinal Chemistry in the Department of Biomedical and Pharmaceutical Sciences since 2007.

Professor Natale has been an outstanding educator, researcher, and mentor throughout his academic career. He directed the Medicinal Chemistry Graduate Program at the University of Montana and played a pivotal role in developing its curriculum and securing programmatic approval from the Montana Board of Regents. He has taught a wide array of courses at both the pharmacy and graduate levels and has mentored an impressive number of students and trainees. He has designed innovative and engaging educational approaches, particularly in the area of medicinal chemistry.

Professor Natale's research is internationally recognized, with over 115 peer-reviewed publications, numerous invited lectures, and substantial contributions to the fields of synthetic organic and medicinal chemistry. He is a pioneer in the study of isoxazoles and their therapeutic applications, with several patents and invention disclosures in cancer, neuroscience, and drug transport systems. His research has been supported by approximately \$40 million in grants over his career, and he has served on multiple NIH and DOE review panels, reflecting the national esteem in which his expertise is held.

In addition to his scholarly work, Professor Natale has provided exceptional service to the academic and broader scientific community. He is a Fellow of the American Chemical Society and has held leadership roles at local, regional, and national levels, including organizing several major scientific symposia. He also co-founded Big Sky Biolabs, exemplifying his commitment to translating academic research into real-world applications.

The Department is pleased to nominate Professor Nicholas R. Natale for emeritus status.

ATTACHMENTS

None