

May 21, 2025

**ITEM 218-1002-R0525**

**Request for Authorization to Confer the Title of Professor Emeritus of Biomedical and Pharmaceutical Sciences on Dr. J. Douglas Coffin; University of Montana -Missoula**

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**THAT**

Following the retirement of Professor J. Douglas Coffin from the faculty of the University of Montana, the faculty wishes to express its appreciation for his more than 25 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.

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**EXPLANATION**

The University of Montana requests the Board of Regents appoint Dr. J. Douglas Coffin as Professor Emeritus in the Department of Biomedical and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Skaggs School of Pharmacy. Dr. Coffin retired as Professor in the Skaggs School of Pharmacy effective August 20, 2022. He served as a tenured full Professor of Molecular Genetics in the Dept. of Biomedical & Pharmaceutical Sciences.

Dr. Coffin received both a B.A. in Biology & Chemistry and then a M.A. in Infectious Disease & Parasitology from SUNY College, Buffalo, NY in 1982 and 1985, respectively. He then proceeded to earn a PhD in Anatomy and Cell Biology from SUNY HSC at Syracuse, NY in 1989. As a faculty member, Dr. Coffin distinguished himself in teaching, research and professional service. For several years he was the course-coordinator for both Pathophysiology and Pharmacology & Toxicology. In addition, he also taught graduate courses in Research Methods, Pharmacology, Toxicology and Pharmacogenetics. His student and faculty (peer) evaluations were consistently good-to-excellent and he received student teaching awards and several merit recommendations based on his teaching. As a dedicated instructor, he carried a considerable teaching load, contributing to both the pharmacy and graduate curricula.

Dr. Coffin began his research career studying the cellular and anatomical basis for development of the cardiovascular system and he continued that work as a post-doctoral fellow at the University of Cincinnati, OH where he was engaged in the production of novel transgenic mice. This technology facilitated his studies into the molecular mechanisms that underpin cardiovascular development and disease. He transferred these technologies to Montana where he developed Montana's first successful transgenic (and gene knockout) facility at the McLaughlin Research Institute; and in 1998 he moved to the University of Montana where he built the SPF mouse facility that continues to be an important asset to many of our UM scientists. Dr. Coffin was successful in obtaining NIH funding from the NIH and other agencies through his career. He trained post-doctoral fellows and graduate and undergraduate students. His expertise in molecular genetics formed a foundation on which to build professional pharmacy programs and the graduate program. His knowledge helped keep students abreast of the latest advances in clinical human genetics and diagnostics while his research successes were often the basis for merit recommendations and awards.

During his tenure at UM, he published 38 papers (49 total), 6 book chapters, and he had 24 funded grants. His laboratory presented their research over 50 times at various public venues, thereby advancing the University's research mission. Dr. Coffin made an important contribution through training student scientists. Under his mentorship he graduated two Ph.D.'s and a master's student and served on an additional fifteen graduate student committees. He also mentored thirty-seven undergraduate and high school students in his lab, many of whom became pharmacists or health care professionals.

Dr. Coffin continues to be involved in scientific research and retains professional collaborative links with the UM. Overall, the University of Montana has been well served by having Dr. Coffin as both faculty and an administrator during an exceptional career. The Skaggs School of Pharmacy is well respected both regionally and nationally, principally because the dedication and hard work by faculty and administrators such as Dr. Coffin. He is well respected by his peers, UM students and the University community at-large. A review of his CV (attached) shows his many achievements that acknowledge his substantial contributions to the University and the field of vascular biology research. The Department of Biomedical and Pharmaceutical Sciences is pleased to enthusiastically nominate Professor J. Douglas Coffin for emeritus status.

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**ATTACHMENTS**

None