

Nomination for the Outstanding Woman Faculty Award of 2011:

It is with great pleasure that we nominate **Dr. Nancy J. Rusch**, Ph.D., Professor and Chair of the Dept. of Pharmacology and Toxicology at UAMS, for the 2011 Outstanding Faculty Award. Since Dr. Rusch joined UAMS as a Chair just 6 years ago, she has had a tremendous impact on faculty and students at UAMS.

Dr. Rusch is a leading international expert in hypertension, a hard-working national advocate for the advancement of science, and an outstanding leader and mentor of scientists at all career phases. She leads a very productive cardiovascular research team that has been continuously funded by NIH since 1987. She has an outstanding scholarly record, publishing over 69 peer-reviewed manuscripts, 18 invited chapters and reviews in high-impact journals.

Dr. Rusch is a member of numerous Study Sections at the NIH and the American Heart Association and of the editorial boards of four major cardiovascular journals; she has been well recognized as a major leader in cardiovascular research. Some of her positions include Chair of the NIH Pharmacology Study Section and of various review committees at the American Heart Association. She held the position of Secretary-Treasurer and then President of the Cardiovascular Division of the American Society of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics from 2006-2008. In 2010, she received the Top Reviewer Award from *Circulation Research*, an international journal in vascular research.

Dr. Rusch has had a tremendous impact on research and teaching in her department. When she joined in 2005, the Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology was ranked 52nd among peer departments, and is now ranked 33rd in the nation. And, in a stagnant federal funding climate, the department's funding has doubled during her tenure. These developments are the direct result of Dr. Rusch's hands-on leadership, mentoring and dedication to her faculty and colleagues. She has also demonstrated exemplary teaching skills in both graduate and medical school courses at the Medical College of Wisconsin and UAMS.

She has trained numerous undergraduate and graduate students and post-doc fellows, many of them women who have gone on to hold prominent faculty positions around the world. At UAMS, Dr. Rusch has been active in the Women's Faculty Development Caucus mentoring program. Her mentoring style is truly inspirational as she provides a role model to emulate while also showing high esteem for all whom she works with. Her talent as a mentor lies in her superb ability to know when to criticize constructively and when to praise, encourage and support.

In summary, Dr. Rusch is an outstanding role model with exceptional enthusiasm, dedication and inspiration to achieve the highest levels of success. She is held in high esteem by colleagues and students in her department and College, and greatly respected as a leader at the university and in national and international societies. Please join us in recognizing Dr. Rusch's commitment to Leadership, Mentoring, and Scholarship with the 2011 Outstanding Woman Faculty Award.

Nomination offered by:

Helen Beneš, Ph.D. Professor, Department of Neurobiology and Developmental Sciences
Marjan Boerma, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences
Gwen Childs, Ph.D., Professor and Chair of Neurobiology and Developmental Sciences
W. Sue T. Griffin, Ph.D., Dillard Professor and Vice Chairman, Donald W. Reynolds Dept of Geriatrics
Laura Hutchins, M.D., Professor and Director of Division of Hematology & Oncology
Fusun Kilic, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
LeeAnn MacMillan-Crow, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology
Uma Nagarajan, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Department of Pediatrics
Li Pang, M.D., Research Instructor, Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology
Ginell Post, M.D./Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Department of Pathology

Mildred M. Randolph, D.V.M., D.A.C.L.A.M., Professor and Director of DLAM
Gouri Ranganathan, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Department of Internal Medicine
Rosalia C.M. Simmen, Ph.D., Professor, Department of Physiology & Biophysics
Kristen Sterba, Ph.D., Assistant Dean, Graduate Student Recruiting and Retention Graduate School
Sabine Telemaque, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Department of Internal Medicine
Keshari Thakali, Ph.D., Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology
Patricia Wight, Ph.D., Professor, Department of Physiology and Biophysics
Ludwika Zimniak, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology