

Example of Service Portfolio

Since my promotion to Associate Professor with Tenure in the School of Optometry in 2011 including my move to the School of Medicine in 2019, I have achieved Excellence in Service by continuing to engage in high level service at UAB, national service, international service, and leadership roles. Key service components to note include my tenure as Chair-Elect, Chair, and Past-Chair of the UAB Faculty Senate during a tumultuous time in the university's history (2014-2017). Through this, I was able to shepherd the Faculty Senate and central administration to achieve a better environment for our university-wide faculty and staff by resolving multiple long-standing issues. My accomplishments include gaining paid family leave for the first time at UAB, obtaining our first Ombudsperson at UAB, and securing an expanded UAB childcare facility. As Chair of the Faculty Senate, I led or participated in several committees, including the Faculty Senate Executive Committee (FSEC) with the President and Provost, the Deans Council, University of Alabama Board of Trustee meetings, one on one meetings with the President, and separately with the Provost. Importantly, I served on the UAB President's Strategic Planning Council, at the invitation of President Watts. My outstanding service to UAB was highlighted by President Watts when he awarded me as the inaugural recipient of the President's Award for Excellence in Support of UAB and Shared Governance.

I currently serve the Heersink School of Medicine (HSOM) in my role as Assistant Dean for Faculty Affairs. I onboard new research faculty, organize and train mentors in a new faculty mentorship program I am developing, perform exit interviews to improve areas that need assistance, and help secure awards for outstanding HSOM faculty. My UAB/HSOM service also includes a strong commitment to the UAB Graduate School. I led the Cellular, Molecular, and Developmental Biology (CMDB) theme in the Graduate Biomedical Sciences for 10 years, 4 years as co-Director and 6 years as Director. This included recruitment of graduate students, chairing or serving on multiple committees (admissions, curriculum, and others) as well as helping graduate students navigate stressful times with an open-door policy. This was especially challenging during COVID. In addition, I am/have been an active member of over 40 institutional committees.

Additionally, I have been extremely active in national and international service for the past 25+ years. This includes extensive service to the international vision research community through the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO). ARVO recently awarded me as a Fellow of ARVO (FARVO), a distinction bestowed to a select few researchers for their service to this international group. I am honored to have served as the North American representative for the Vision Research Advocacy Committee. Additionally, I founded and organize the Birmingham Women in Eye in Vision Research (bWEAVR) Association. These service activities and others listed below and on my CV are essential components of my academic responsibilities and provide additional evidence of my scholarly reputation for excellence at the national and international level.

Service-Related Honors and Awards

- Inaugural Recipient, UAB President's Award for Excellence in Support of UAB and Shared Governance, 2016
- Silver Fellow, Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (FARVO), 2022

Executive Appointments

- *Assistant Dean of Faculty Onboarding, School of Medicine, UAB 2019 – 2021*
I onboard new research faculty of all ranks, also hosting an annual two-day research faculty onboarding workshop where leaders of units across the University present their units:
https://mediaspace.uab.edu/channel/channelid/219097303/?utm_source=golink&utm_medium=golink
- *Assistant Dean of Faculty Affairs, Heersink School of Medicine (SOM), UAB 2022 – present, 0.5 FTE* I continue to perform onboarding programs, as well as perform exit interviews for outgoing faculty. Additionally, I am implementing a school-wide faculty mentoring program and I will train mentors annually. I serve on several committees for local, national, and international UAB Heersink SOM faculty recognition, such as SOM Dean's Excellence Awards, ASCI, AAP, and others.

Committee Memberships

National and International – partial list

- North American Representative Leader of Vision Research Advocacy, appointed by ARVO Executive Council, 2015 – 2018
- ARVO Global Mentorship Program Mentor, 2020 – present
- ARVO Members-in-Training Committee Member, 2022 – present

- Elected from an international pool of candidates to the Biochemistry (BI) Annual Program Planning Committee Member, ARVO Annual Meeting, 2010 – 2013
- Marine Biological Laboratory International Committee on Admissions Member, Special Topics summer course, “*Fundamental Issues in Vision Research*,” 2010 – 2018
- NIH/NEI Advocacy Committee Member, ARVO, 2010 – 2014
- UAB Representative to the American Association of Medical Colleges (AAMC) Council of Faculty and Academic Societies (CFAS), 2013 – 2020

Institutional – partial list from service on over 40 UAB committees

- Chair-Elect, UAB Faculty Senate, 2014 – 2015
- Chair, UAB Faculty, 2015 – 2016
- Past-Chair, UAB Faculty Senate, 2016 – 2017
- Member, UAB President’s Strategic Planning Council, UAB, 2016 – 2020
- Member, UAB President’s Liaison Committee, 2015 – 2016
- Director, CMDDB Graduate Theme, UAB GBS, 2016 – 2022
- co-Director, Cellular, Molecular, and Developmental Biology (CMDDB) Graduate Theme, UAB Graduate Biomedical Sciences (GBS), 2011 – 2015
- Member, UAB Dean of Libraries Search Committee, 2013 – 2014
- Member, UAB Dean of the School of Optometry Search Committee, 2013 – 2014
- Member, UAB Dean of the Graduate School Search Committee, 2014 – 2015
- Member, UAB Department of Neurobiology Promotions and Tenure Committee, 2019 – present
- Chair, UAB Heersink SOM Dean’s Award for Service Selection Committee, 2022 – present

Organization of Conferences and Associations

- co-Founder and co-Organizer, Southeastern Vision Research Conference 2016-2019
- Founder and Organizer, Birmingham Women in Eye and Vision Research (bWEAVR), 2013 – present

Conference Program Planning Committees and Sessions Serving as Chair/Moderator

- I have served as chair/moderator at over twenty sessions at ARVO and at ISER annual meetings and have served on Program Planning Committees for ARVO Annual Meeting BI Section, 2011 – 2013 and Southeastern Vision Research Conference Program Committee, 2017 – 2020.

Editorial Boards

- Frontiers in Neuroscience, 2013 – present
- Journal of Translational Genetics and Genomics, 2021 – 2022

Peer Review Activities

Grants (National and International)

- I have served on several study panels for national and international grants. These include the following: NSF Review Panel for Modulation in Neural Systems Cluster *ad hoc* member, 2013 – 2018; NSF Review Panel in Molecular and Cellular Biosciences *ad hoc* member, 2019; Health Research Charities Ireland & Fighting Blindness Ireland Joint Funding Charities Group *ad hoc* review panel member, 2021 – present; NSF Division of Ocean Sciences, Biological Oceanography *ad hoc* review panel member, 2022; NIH ZRG1 F05-Q L study section *ad hoc* member, 2021 – present (4 times to date); NIH National Eye Institute (NEI) Translational Research Program on Therapy for Visual Disorders (R24) study section *ad hoc* member, 2022; Fight for Sight Scientific Review Committee, 2013 – present

Manuscripts

- I have reviewed for many journals several times (approximately 20 per year). These include the following: IOVS (Investigative Ophthalmology & Visual Science), Vision Research, Photochemistry and Photobiology, JCI (Journal of Clinical Investigation), JBC (Journal of Biological Chemistry), Biochemistry, Scientific Reports, Molecular Vision, Experimental Eye Research, Frontiers in Neurobiology, Journal of Neuroscience, Human Molecular Genetics, PLoS ONE, Molecular Neurodegeneration, Molecular Neurobiology, Pharmacology Research & Perspectives, Communications Biology, Nature Communications, eLIFE, Cells, Nature Cell Biology.