A Special Announcement from the Senior Vice President for Health Sciences

March 10, 2016

Dear Colleagues,

I am extremely pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Roberta Diaz Brinton as the inaugural Director of the University of Arizona Health Sciences Center for Innovation in Brain Science. Effective May 9, 2016, Dr. Brinton will join the UA from the University of Southern California where she has served as the R. Pete Vanderveen Chair in Therapeutic Discovery and Development.

Dr. Brinton is an internationally renowned neuroscientist who has made seminal contributions in the field of Alzheimer's, the aging female brain and regenerative therapeutics to prevent, delay and treat neurodegenerative disease. In addition to her accomplishments as a translational neuroscientist, Dr. Brinton has driven the development of multidisciplinary team-based approaches to brain science and has been a passionate advocate for promoting diversity within the scientific workforce.

She has been principal investigator for major National Institutes of Health funded program project and center grants focused on brain disorders and her research has been continuously funded by NIH for over 20 years. Dr. Brinton currently serves on the NIH Director’s Center for Scientific Review Advisory Council, chairs the Medical and Scientific Advisory Board of the Alzheimer’s Greater Los Angeles, and the Board of Governors for the Alzheimer’s Drug Development Foundation. Her professional memberships include the Society for Neuroscience and the International Brain Research Organization/World Federation of Neuroscientists.

As Director of the new Center for Innovation in Brain Science, Dr. Brinton will provide leadership for accelerating the advancement of interdisciplinary research programs that integrate with existing University strengths in cognitive aging in health and disease, chronic pain, traumatic brain and spinal cord injury, stroke and aphasia, as well as the emerging area of brain and cognitive development.

I am grateful to search committee chair, Dr. Todd Vanderah, and to all the members of the search committee who contributed their valuable time in support of this successful national recruitment effort. The recruitment of Dr.
Brinton and the launch of the Center for Innovation in Brain Science is a major accomplishment stemming from the recommendations of the UAHS Neuroscience Advisory Council.

Please join me in welcoming Dr. Brinton to the University of Arizona and the University of Arizona Health Sciences!

Joe G.N. “Skip” Garcia, MD  
Senior Vice President for Health Sciences