December 14, 2009

To:          Deans, Directors and Department Chairs

From:       Tony G. Waldrop
            Vice Chancellor, Research and Economic Development

Subject:   Interim Director of the Division of Laboratory Medicine

I am pleased to announce the appointment of Nelson Garnett, D.V.M. as interim director of the Division of Laboratory Animal Medicine (DLAM). Dr. Garnett replaces Dr. John Bradfield, who is leaving Carolina at the end of December to accept an executive position with the Association for the Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care International (AAALAC), the worldwide accrediting body for laboratory animal care. Dr. Garnett is already working at UNC-Chapel Hill part-time, and he will begin full-time duties as Interim Director of DLAM beginning January 1, 2010. He will serve until a permanent director has been recruited.

Nelson brings a distinguished background to Carolina. Educated at the University of Georgia (B.S. and D.V.M. degrees), and board certified by the American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine since 1987, he began his career as a Captain in the U.S. Air Force Veterinary Corps in 1972. Entering private veterinary practice upon leaving the Air Force, Nelson returned for postdoctoral training in laboratory animal medicine at the University Cincinnati and The Johns Hopkins University in 1980. His first position in lab animal medicine was at the University of Maryland School of Medicine. After promotion to Director of the Central Animal Facility at Maryland, he entered the Public Health Service as Facility Veterinarian for NICHD and NIMH in the NIH Animal Center in Poolesville, Maryland. He moved to the NIH Office for Protection from Research Risks (now the Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare or OLAW) in 1988, becoming acting director of OLAW in 1992 and director in 1993. He retired from federal service as director of OLAW in 2004. After a year of retirement, he became director of the Office of The Johns Hopkins University Animal Care and Use Committee, leaving that position at the end of 2006. For the past three years he has worked as a consultant to various laboratory animal programs around the country.

Please join me in welcoming Dr. Nelson Garnett to campus in this critical role so important to the conduct of research in the biomedical and behavioral sciences.

Joining Dr. Garnett in the interim leadership of DLAM will be three of our campus veterinarians. Drs. Craig Fletcher, Judy Nielsen and Julia Whitaker have agreed to assume interim management roles in the three operating branches of DLAM—husbandry, veterinary services, and administration. Dr. Garnett will announce their specific assignments in the next few weeks.

I am also pleased to announce that Dr. Joe Kornegay, Professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, and Dr. Robert Lowman, Associate Vice Chancellor for Research and Research Professor of Psychology, have agreed to co-chair a distinguished search committee to identify the new permanent director of DLAM. That search will begin immediately.