

Submitted by: Keith E. Whitfield, Provost

## **DISCONTINUANCE OF THE M.S. AND PH.D. PROGRAMS IN MOLECULAR AND CELLULAR TOXICOLOGY**

### **Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Board of Governors approve the discontinuance of both the M.S. and Ph.D. programs in Molecular and Cellular Toxicology (MCT), effective Fall 2016.

### **Program Description**

These interdisciplinary graduate programs in MCT are housed within the Graduate School with the cooperation of the Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (IEHS); it includes participating faculty from the School of Medicine, the Eugene Applebaum College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, and the Biological Sciences and Chemistry Departments in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. The program is a part of the Interdisciplinary Biomedical Sciences (IBS) system in the WSU School of Medicine. The overall mission of the MCT graduate programs is to provide a program for students interested in obtaining comprehensive course and research training in the area of molecular and cellular toxicology. To achieve this goal, the program offers a wide range of research opportunities and emphasizes investigations that examine the molecular and cellular mechanisms underlying environmentally modifiable disease processes.

### **Background**

The M.S. and Ph.D. graduate programs in MCT were established in fall 1995. Since the program's inception, ten Ph.D. degrees and three M.S. degrees have been awarded.

The MCT graduate programs underwent academic program review in the fall semester of 2011. Upon review of the self-study document, it was determined that the MCT program was noncompetitive relative to other, similar U.S. programs, and it was recommended that the program be phased out and subsequently terminated after all students in the program had either graduated or transferred to other programs. A total of four students were enrolled in the program at that time; three students subsequently transferred to the Department of Pharmacology's Graduate Program in the School of Medicine, and the remaining student recently graduated in November 2015.

### **Approvals**

The discontinuance of the M.S. and Ph.D. programs described in this proposal have been approved by the Faculty and Director of the Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, the Associate Dean of Graduate Programs in the School of Medicine, the Graduate Council, the Dean of the Graduate School, and the Provost.