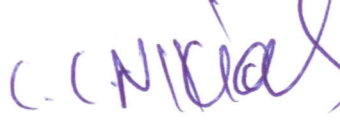


MEMORANDUM

To: USC Faculty  
From: C. L. Max Nikias   
Date: October 22, 2009  
Subject: 2009-2010 Task Force on USC Neurosciences

Office of the Provost

**C. L. Max Nikias**  
Executive Vice President  
and Provost

Malcolm R. Currie Chair  
in Technology and  
the Humanities

Neuroscience represents an arena in which some of the most remarkable advances in basic and applied research are taking place. The neurosciences at USC are an integral part of our research and teaching mission—and are especially important to our efforts to continue to claim a leadership role within a nascent biological and medical sciences revolution. USC's neurosciences programs have also emerged as an exemplar of interdisciplinary work, bringing together top faculty from our Health Sciences and University Park campuses as well as Children's Hospital of Los Angeles.

In light of this, I am delighted to announce the establishment of a Task Force on Neurosciences at USC that will be chaired by Pat Levitt, Provost Professor of Neuroscience, Psychiatry & Pharmacy. The task force will work during the 2009-2010 academic year and will provide recommendations to me by May 2010. The members of the group, who have been selected from across the spectrum of schools and departments that are involved in the neurosciences, are listed on the following page.

I have charged Professor Levitt and the task force with developing recommendations on two specific issues relating to the neurosciences at USC:

- 1) The academic curriculum for the Neurosciences Graduate Program, and
- 2) The appropriate structures and processes for the allocation of resources for graduate fellowships and stipends for students in the Neuroscience Graduate Program.

Navigating these two issues is essential to a robust and high quality program. In addition, I have asked the group to provide input on issues that will arise as a result of their specific recommendations. Potential examples include the development of degree-granting tracks outside our neuroscience graduate program and an assessment of the relationship between extramural research funding and programmatic development. The task force will be forward-looking and will seek to develop recommendations about how the programs might best be structured.

I am grateful that Professor Levitt has agreed to chair this talented group, as he brings strong leadership and extensive experience in developing successful, competitive graduate programs in the neurosciences. I look forward to receiving the task force's recommendations and working to further improve the quality and stature of the neurosciences at USC.

cc: Provost's Cabinet  
Academic Deans

## 2009-2010 Task Force on USC Neurosciences

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