




M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Academic Deans, Faculty 

FROM: Elizabeth Garrett  
Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

DATE: November 3, 2011

SUBJECT: Faculty Hiring Initiative in the Sciences and Engineering

Office of the Provost

**Elizabeth Garrett**  
Provost and  
Senior Vice  
President  
for Academic  
Affairs

Frances R. and  
John J. Duggan  
Professor of Law,  
Political Science  
and Public Policy

The foundation of any great university is its faculty. Our continued ascent to the pinnacle of academic excellence depends on nurturing greatness in our current faculty as well as our continuing to hire additional transformative faculty. Informed risk-taking, inquiry and innovation at the intersections of disciplines, and research that is consequential are hallmarks of USC faculty scholarship and creative achievement. All of these characteristics are evident in the cutting-edge work done by faculty in the sciences and engineering. Because of the interdisciplinary role that science and technology plays in our modern global community and because research often spans departments, schools and our USC campuses, I am pleased to announce the Faculty Hiring Initiative in the Sciences and Engineering to support faculty whose work lies at the convergence of these important fields. The goal of this initiative is to create a culture of research and innovation that propels USC to an even higher level of academic distinction.

A faculty committee has been selected to (i) determine areas of investigation that bring together scientists and engineers in order to tackle the major challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, (ii) identify and recruit transformative faculty who will catalyze activity in science and engineering across our campuses, and (iii) work with all faculty members involved in science and engineering to recommend ways to better transcend school and disciplinary boundaries, integrate research and teaching across our two campuses, collaborate on significant proposals for external funding and philanthropic support, and ensure that the research done at USC generates the impact and influence it merits. This committee will advise me and my office in selecting outstanding faculty candidates who will enhance this interdisciplinary research. A committee roster is provided in an attachment to this memorandum.

Beyond the suggestions of the committee, I look forward to receiving from schools the names of top scientists and engineers who should become part of our USC community. It is expected that these faculty will have a record of accomplishment that clearly distinguishes them as major scholars in their field, and that there will be convincing evidence of future productivity and innovative contributions. Consideration will be given to the proposed candidate's success in

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interdisciplinary collaboration, mentoring Ph.D. students, attracting top postdoctoral fellows and junior faculty, and translating their discoveries to improvements in society. In addition to providing a C.V., nominators should discuss the likelihood that such recruitment will be successful, and how the scholar's work will complement that being done by our own exceptional faculty. Hiring clusters of faculty will also be considered.

Submissions are accepted on a rolling basis, and they will be reviewed by the faculty committee, which will advise me on the strengths and weaknesses of each candidate. My office will then work with the relevant dean or deans to determine the types of university-level assistance and resources that can be provided to successfully recruit the candidate. To submit a name(s) for consideration or for additional information please email Executive Vice Provost Michael Quick at [evp@usc.edu](mailto:evp@usc.edu).

The Office of the Provost is pleased to support this important program that reflects USC's commitment to forward-looking scholarship and increases our influence as a world-class research university.

## Science and Engineering Advisory Committee

Julio Camarero, Associate Professor of Pharmacology and Pharmaceutical Sciences

Yang Chai, Professor, George and Mary Lou Boone Chair in Craniofacial Molecular Biology, and Associate Dean of Research and Director of the Center for Craniofacial Molecular Biology

Moh El-Naggar, Assistant Professor of Physics

Susan Forsburg, Professor of Biological Sciences

Jae Jung, Professor and Chairman of Molecular Microbiology & Immunology

Eva Kanso, Associate Professor and Zohrab A. Kaprielian Fellow in Engineering and Associate Professor of Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering

Peter Laird, Associate Professor of Surgery, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology and Director of the USC Epigenome Center

Shri Narayan, Viterbi Professor in Engineering and Professor of Electrical Engineering-Systems and Computer Science, Linguistics, and Psychology and Director of the Ming Hsieh Institute

Mark Thompson, Professor of Chemistry, Materials Science and Environmental Studies

Alan Willner, Steven and Kathryn Sample Chair in Engineering and Professor of Electrical Engineering-Systems