REQUEST FOR DEPARTMENT NAME CHANGE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA:
DEPARTMENT OF PHARMACOLOGY

Action Requested: Consider approval of the request by the University of Iowa to change the name of the Department of Pharmacology to the Department of Neuroscience and Pharmacology in the Roy J. and Lucille A. Carver College of Medicine.

Recommendation: The Council of Provosts and Board office support approval of this change.

Reason for change: In recent years, there have been extensive investments in neuroscience research, education and clinical care in the Carver College of Medicine (CCOM) and across the university. The growth in neuroscience is driven by a $45 million dollar gift from the Roy J. Carver Charitable Trust, as well as significant resources from CCOM and the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, leading to the creation of the Iowa Neuroscience Institute. CCOM would like to rename the Department of Pharmacology to strengthen the department.

Neuroscience is a historical strength of this department, with about 80% of current faculty research programs in the area of neuroscience. Capitalizing on these investments will help improve the reputation and rankings of CCOM and the university, as well as help more effectively recruit and retain faculty focused on neuroscience research, as well as recruit graduate students and postdoctoral fellows. The department will be better able to build and sustain large research groups, and compete for collaborative, project and center grants in areas such as the neural control of metabolism and obesity, pain and neuronal signaling. The combination of neuroscience and pharmacology will aid in the development of novel therapeutic approaches to treat debilitating diseases such as Alzheimer’s Disease and related dementia.

Impact on Students: The proposed change will not affect current students. All current programs of the Department of Pharmacology will continue.

Relationship to accreditation: There are no known accreditation issues for this name change.

Date of implementation: August 2019