Brief Bio’s for the Nominees
College of Biological Science Dean Search Selection Committee - 2019

John Dawson – Department of Molecular and Cellular Biology, CBS

I am a Professor in MCB who has led in all facets of my role in the College.

I am the founding Director of the COESP (our College educational office) and winner of University teaching awards and a founding organizer and executive of the inter-college Centre for Cardiovascular Investigations. I have an active NSERC and cardiovascular research program, for which I have won national research awards. I believe in hard work, challenging assumptions, and human connections.

In my leadership roles, I regularly connect with faculty, staff, and students from across the College and Canada in the areas of research and education. From these interactions, I bring an understanding and perspective of the issues facing the College specifically and the University sector in general.

I firmly believe that our Dean has the most important role in guiding our College to be a leader in Canada, enhancing relevance, equitability, and access; looking to the future while honouring our past and core values. The perspective I bring guided me when I led the development of our vision, mission, and values for the College’s Strategic Plan and I would be honoured to once again bring that perspective to the critically important Dean’s search committee.

Alison Duncan – Department of Human Health and Nutritional Sciences, CBS

Alison Duncan is a Professor and Associate Director of Research at the Human Nutraceutical Research Unit, in the Department of Human Health and Nutritional Sciences at the University of Guelph. Alison’s academic training is all in nutrition with an undergraduate degree in Applied Human Nutrition from the University of Guelph, training to become a Registered Dietitian at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre, a M.Sc. in Nutritional Science from the University of Toronto and a Ph.D. in Nutritional Sciences from the University of Minnesota. Her teaching and research relate to the biological effects of functional foods on chronic disease-related endpoints evaluated in human intervention studies, with a particular focus on the agri-food-health continuum. Through these activities, Alison has trained many BSc, MSc and PhD students, many who have remained in the nutrition community. Alison has served on grant review panels, reviews manuscripts for several journals on a regular basis, has given many presentations at conferences and community groups. Alison currently serves on the editorial board for the Journal of Nutrition and as Vice President-Research and President-Elect for the Canadian Nutrition Society and was recently named a Fellow of the Dietitians of Canada.
Robert Hanner – Department of Integrative Biology, CBS

Robert (Bob) Hanner is an Associate Professor in the Department of Integrative Biology and Biodiversity Institute of Ontario at the University of Guelph. He worked at the American Museum of Natural History as a Kalbfleisch Postdoctoral Fellow and Curatorial Associate of their Ambrose Monell Cryo Collection before joining the Coriell Institute of Medical Research as Scientific Director. He has also served as President of the International Society for Biological and Environmental Repositories (ISBER). Since joining the University of Guelph in 2005, he has developed a broad ranging research program in molecular biodiversity. Focusing on food security issues in collaboration with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, his research involves DNA-based bio-surveillance of agricultural pests, plant viruses and vectors of disease. Notably, it has also engaged citizen scientists, journalists, and NGOs in revealing market substitution and food fraud, both in Canada and internationally. The environmental or “eDNA” research he currently spearheads aims to support conservation of aquatic species-at-risk and has received funding from Genome Canada, the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) of Canada and the Ontario Centres of Excellence (OCE), together with support from varied industry partners including Limnotech, Precision Biomonitoring, SLR Consulting and Stantec.

Graham Holloway – Department of Human Health and Nutritional Sciences, CBS

Dr. Graham Holloway is an Associate Professor in the Department of Human Health and Nutritional Sciences (HHNS). Graham's contributions to research, teaching and service are exemplary. From a research perspective, Graham has held uninterrupted funding from NSERC, has obtained numerous equipment grants for the department, has published 100+ peer-reviewed articles in top journals, and has successfully mentored many MSc and PhD students. Graham teaches at both the undergraduate and graduate levels, and his evaluations have consistently shown that students appreciate his courses and his teaching style. Perhaps most important for this search committee is that Graham has shown significant leadership at the department, college and university levels by serving as Graduate Coordinator of HHNS, former chair of the HHNS animal facility, a member of the University Research Ethics Board, scholarship committees at the college level, and the BSc academic review committee (for CBS). These services positions have enabled Graham to obtain a broad, yet deep, understanding of the needs and challenges of both HHNS and CBS. He would make an outstanding member of this search committee.

Chris Whitfield – Department of Molecular and Cellular Biology, CBS

Chris Whitfield is a Professor and three-term CRC. He was appointed to the faculty at Guelph in 1984 and was the interim Chair of the Department of Microbiology and founding Chair of the Department of Molecular & Cellular Biology from 2002-13. He served as an elected member of the University’s Board of Governors for a 3-year term ending in 2013. Dr. Whitfield is an international leader in research on the assembly of cell surfaces in bacterial pathogens. He has held consultancies with biotechnology and pharmaceutical companies in Canada, the US and Europe, and has been a member of the scientific advisory boards of research centres and administrative committees for NCEs. Dr. Whitfield has active editorial roles with leading journals and extensive experience with triagency funding panels. His research contributions have been recognized with awards including the premier award from the Canadian Society of Microbiologists (the CSM Murray Award for Career Achievement), the Frederick Bang Award from the International Endotoxin and Innate Immunity Society, a Canadian Institutes of Health Research Senior Investigator Award, and Fellowship in the American Academy of Microbiology. Dr. Whitfield was elected to Fellowship in the Royal Society of Canada in 2007.