

Eric Prossnitz, PhD Named Chief and Alan Tomkinson, PhD Named Vice-Chief of the Division of Molecular Medicine, UNM Department of Internal Medicine

Date: April 5, 2018

To: All Faculty and Staff

From: Mark Unruh, MD, PhD; Chair, Department of Internal Medicine
Cheryl L. Willman, MD; Director & CEO, UNM Comprehensive Cancer Center

We are pleased to announce that Eric Prossnitz, PhD, has been named the new Chief and Alan Tomkinson, PhD, the Vice-Chief of the Division Molecular Medicine in the Department of Internal Medicine at the UNM School of Medicine.

Dr. Prossnitz is Professor in the Division of Molecular Medicine and The Victor and Ruby Hansen Surface Professor of Cancer Chemical Biology. He serves as co-Director of the Cancer Biology Research Program at the UNM Comprehensive Cancer Center and as Director of Team Science & Commercialization at the UNM Clinical & Translational Science Center. Dr. Prossnitz holds a doctoral degree in Biochemistry from the University of California, Berkeley, and completed a post-doctoral fellowship in Immunology at the Scripps Clinic and Research Foundation. His internationally known research focuses on the roles of the 7-transmembrane G protein-coupled estrogen receptor, GPR30/GPER, in health and disease and particularly in cancer, cardiovascular function, obesity and diabetes. His lab was the first to characterize GPER as an estrogen-binding receptor that is functionally distinct from the classical estrogen receptors ER-alpha and ER-beta. He has published more than 195 peer-reviewed publications, has received several awards for research in Canada, France, and the United States, and holds several U.S. patents.

Dr. Tomkinson is Professor of Internal Medicine and The Victor and Ruby Hansen Surface Endowed Chair in Cancer Research. He serves as Associate Director for Basic Research at the UNM Comprehensive Cancer Center. Trained in Biochemistry and Molecular Genetics at the University of Newcastle Upon Tyne in England, the Imperial Cancer Research Fund, and the University of California, Berkeley, Dr. Tomkinson's internationally known research interests are focused on the molecular mechanisms of DNA replication, repair, and recombination pathways that maintain genome stability. His work is leading to the development of new therapies which target alterations to these pathways in cancer cells. Dr. Tomkinson has published more than 100 peer-reviewed journal articles and 28 reviews or book chapters. He has received numerous awards and holds two U.S. patents.

Dr. Prossnitz and Dr. Tomkinson have each willingly and competently assumed positions of greater responsibility throughout their careers. Please welcome both to their new roles in the Division of Molecular Medicine.

Cheryl L. Willman, MD

The Maurice and Marguerite Liberman Distinguished Endowed Chair in Cancer Research

Director and Chief Executive Officer, UNM Cancer Center

Distinguished Professor, UNM Departments of Pathology and Internal Medicine

Mark Unruh, M.D., M.S.

Professor and Chair, Department of Internal Medicine

Solomon, Gardner & Sterling Chair

Acting Section Chief New Mexico VA Health System

Associate Director UNM CTSC

University of New Mexico School of Medicine