



President-elect Candidate



Douglas H. Sweet, Ph.D.
Virginia Commonwealth University

Douglas H. Sweet, Ph.D., is the E. Claiborne Robins distinguished professor and chairman of the Department of Pharmaceutics, School of Pharmacy, Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) [since 2015]. He received his undergraduate (1984) and graduate (master's, 1987; doctorate, 1993) education at the University of Michigan. He completed postdoctoral training at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (1993–1995) and was an Intramural Research Training Award (IRTA) Fellow at the NIH/National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (1995–2000). Prior to joining the VCU faculty, Sweet was faculty at the University of California, San Diego (2000–2002) and the Medical University of South Carolina (2002–2008).

Sweet's research encompasses investigations into the impact of organic solute transporters (SLC22 family) on the permeation of drugs and toxins across barrier epithelia, e.g., kidney, liver, testis, and choroid plexus. His research addresses fundamental questions regarding transporter mechanisms of action and the role of transporters in drug distribution and excretion, drug-drug, and drug-xenobiotic interactions. He contributed to the primary discovery/functional characterization of the drug transporters Organic Cation Transporter 2, Organic Anion Transporter (OAT) 1 and OAT 3, including the first OAT knockout line. All three transporters are now listed in a U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Guidance to Industry as requiring *in vitro* studies to determine whether an investigational drug is a substrate or inhibitor prior to FDA application. He has authored 68 original research papers and book chapters on the discovery and characterization of Solute Carrier 22 family members, >70 abstracts, and delivered >50 invited scientific presentations on his work. He has served on Editorial Boards of the *Journal of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics* (2006–2016), *Pharmacology Research and Perspectives* (2013–2019), and the *Journal of Pharmaceutics and Pharmacology* (2013–present).

Upon joining AAPS in 2003, Sweet was an active member of the Pharmacokinetics, Pharmacodynamics, and Drug Metabolism (PPDM) section and the Drug Transport focus group (DTFG). Notable service includes the DTFG Executive Committee (2003–2010; chair 2009); Planning Committee, AAPS Workshop on Drug Transporters in ADME (2006–2011; co-chair 2008–2011); PPDM secretary/treasurer (2009–2011); PPDM vice chair/chair-elect/chair/past chair (2012–2015); 2017 Annual Meeting chair; PharmSci 360 Planning Committee (2015–2018), Scientific Programming Committee (2017–2019), and Track Realignment Task Force (chair, 2019); and most recently on the Board of Directors as member-at-large (2018–2021). He has attended every Leadership Retreat since 2013. He routinely contributes to annual meeting content through presentations, programming submissions, and session moderation (2005, 2006, 2008, 2009, 2011, 2012, 2014, 2016, 2017), as well as drug transporter workshop sessions (2007, 2009, 2011). He has also served as a mentor for the annual Mentoring Breakfast (2007, 2010–2015, 2019, 2021) and as VCU AAPS Student Chapter faculty advisor (2008–2014).

Other selected AAPS service includes: *AAPS Newsmagazine* Content Advisory Committee (2006–2010; chair 2009); Publications Committee (2008–2010); Member Groups Coordination Committee (2010–2012); PPDM Open Forum Steering Committee (chair, 2011–2012); Annual Meeting Program Committee (2012–2017; chair 2016); Career Services Advisory Committee (2014–2016); Program Coordination Committee (chair, 2016–2017); Annual Meeting Screening Committee (chair, 2016–2017).

Why are you interested in serving AAPS in the capacity of president-elect and how has your experience prepared you to lead AAPS?

“I wish to serve as president-elect because I am grateful for the personal and professional development I have gained through AAPS, and I wish to ensure others have the opportunity for a similar experience. Further, through my commitment to AAPS I have gained a grounded understanding of where AAPS has been, where AAPS is heading, and the opportunities and challenges that we face in this process. I believe I can continue to make valuable contributions to this evolution.

“As chair of the DTFG (2008-2009) and in various roles on the PPDM section Executive Committee (2009–2015, secretary/treasurer, vice chair, chair) I learned how to effectively lead volunteer teams to successful outcomes. As a member of the New Meeting Planning Committee (2015–2017) I was intimately involved in the meeting redesign and launch of PharmSci 360. This afforded me great insight as to the challenges faced by AAPS as a maturing professional society and identification of ‘modern approaches’ to address the changing landscape. Serving as the 2017 Annual Meeting chair greatly enhanced my depth of understanding of all facets of AAPS and how the various roles of members, staff, executive director, and Board of Directors integrate to produce our offerings. As a member of the PharmSci 360 Scientific Programming Committee (2018 and 2019) I proactively facilitated its launch as well as the implementation and establishment of new procedures for meeting planning and development. Most recently, I served on the AAPS Board of Directors as member-at-large (2018–2021). A key role was to serve as a liaison between the Board, staff, and various committees to ensure clear communication regarding scope, the Board’s intent, and individual roles.

“Through these activities I have gained a deep appreciation for the diverse fabric of AAPS’ membership and a strong understanding of staff and volunteer roles and responsibilities. I have obtained a broad understanding of the needs of the organization as well as the needs of the membership—academic, industrial, and regulatory. Thus, I believe I can serve as an effective leader for AAPS in this capacity.

“Finally, in my ‘day job’ as professor and chair, Department of Pharmaceutics, VCU, a major responsibility is helping to develop policies and shape strategic research and educational initiatives that will advance our programs and meet the contemporary needs of our students and faculty. These experiences have provided me the tools to effectively engage and communicate with diverse stakeholders while implementing change.”