Member-at-Large Candidate

Patrick T. Ronaldson, Ph.D., FAAPS
University of Arizona

Patrick Ronaldson, Ph.D., FAAPS is a Professor in the Department of Pharmacology at the University of Arizona College of Medicine, where he also serves as chair of the Graduate Interdisciplinary Program in Neuroscience. He earned an Honours Bachelor of Science degree with distinction in pharmacology from the University of Toronto in 2000 and completed a Ph.D. in pharmaceutical sciences at the Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Toronto, in 2007. Following his doctoral studies, Ronaldson joined the University of Arizona as a postdoctoral research associate, advancing rapidly through the faculty ranks to Research Assistant Professor (2009), Assistant Professor (2011), Associate Professor with tenure (2017), and Professor with tenure (2022). Ronaldson's research focuses on the biology of the blood-brain barrier and its impact on drug delivery, drug-drug interactions, and adverse effects in neurological disease states, including ischemic stroke and cerebral hypoxia. His laboratory has demonstrated, for example, how acetaminophen can modulate brain microvascular integrity, affecting central nervous system delivery and efficacy of opioid analgesics such as morphine and codeine. More recent work has focused on targeting of transporter systems in glial cells with an emphasis on discovery of small molecule activators of SLC1A2 for treatment of neurological disease states. These studies provide critical mechanistic insights into how transporters affect tissue drug exposure and therapeutic response, with broad implications for translational and clinical pharmacology.

Ronaldson's work is supported by five-year research grants from the National Institute of Neurological Diseases and Stroke (NINDS) and the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), and he has published over 50 peer-reviewed articles and eight book chapters in neuropharmacology, CNS drug delivery, pharmacokinetics, and adverse drug effects. He has received multiple accolades, including the New Investigator Award in Pharmacokinetics, Pharmacodynamics, and Drug Metabolism from AAPS (2011), the PhRMA Foundation New Investigator Award in Pharmacology and Toxicology (2012), the Leadership in Pharmaceutical Sciences Award from the Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy (2023), and election as an AAPS Fellow (2023). He has also served as chair of multiple NIH peer-review groups, including "Drug Discovery for the Nervous System" and "Small Business: Drug Discovery for Neuropsychiatric, Substance Abuse, and Neurologic Disorders," overseeing evaluation of therapeutics with complex neuropharmacological considerations.

In addition to his research, Ronaldson teaches pharmacokinetics, pharmacodynamics, neuropharmacology, and neurotoxicology to M.D., M.S., and Ph.D. students. As chair of the Neuroscience Graduate Program, he has led curriculum and programmatic initiatives that balance trainee development, interdisciplinary research, and long-term program sustainability. Through these roles, Ronaldson has demonstrated a sustained commitment to scientific innovation, mentorship, and organizational leadership, experience he would bring to the AAPS Board of Directors.

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

"I am deeply motivated to serve the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists (AAPS) as a member-at-large because I believe in the association's mission to advance pharmaceutical science and support the development of the next generation of scientists. As a long-term member of AAPS and an academic pharmaceutical scientist, I have witnessed firsthand the transformative role the association plays in fostering collaboration, mentorship, and innovation across academia, industry, and regulatory sectors. Serving on the Board would provide an opportunity to contribute strategically to AAPS' growth, help guide programming and initiatives that advance the field, and ensure the society continues to meet the evolving needs of its diverse membership.

"My experience leading complex academic programs has uniquely prepared me to contribute as a Board member. As chair of the Graduate Interdisciplinary Program in Neuroscience at the University of Arizona, I have guided a nationally recognized training program, balancing immediate programmatic needs with long-term sustainability. I have worked collaboratively with faculty, trainees, and external partners to secure resources, implement strategic initiatives, and build programs that strengthen interdisciplinary research and professional development. I have also chaired national-level initiatives, including NIH peer-review panels and AAPS committees, which required evaluating complex scientific and strategic priorities, fostering consensus among academic and industry stakeholders, and making decisions that impact research and professional development broadly. Additionally, my leadership in developing programs and communities—such as building the Fellows Community at AAPS to enhance engagement between emerging and established scientific leaders—has reinforced my ability to listen, align diverse perspectives, and translate vision into actionable initiatives. My research and academic leadership experience have also honed skills in resource management, strategic planning, and data-informed decision-making, all critical for effective governance of a scientific society. I am committed to bringing a balanced, inclusive, and forward-looking perspective to the AAPS Board of Directors, ensuring that the association continues to provide high-value programming, advance pharmaceutical sciences globally, support the professional growth of members at every career stage, and foster networking and collaborations amongst academic and industry scientists. Serving AAPS in the capacity of member-at-large would allow me to leverage my experience in scientific leadership, program development, and mentorship to make meaningful contributions to the association's mission and long-term success."