



Letter From Our Incoming President

June 2022

Dear Colleagues,

I want to thank you for electing me as the next President of UCHC-AAUP. For those who don't know much about me, I am a tenured Professor in the Center on Aging and the Department of Immunology, and I have been at UConn Health since 2013. I do research on how aging impacts the response to infection, I teach immunology to graduate students and I have a heavy load of committee work (including IACUC and SAPC). I am also involved in our UConn Claude D. Pepper Older Americans Independence Center as the leader of the Biomarker and Preclinical Studies Core.

As Ibrahim wrote in his note to you, I take over after we have achieved much under his leadership. We have just completed the first year of our newly negotiated contract (retroactive to July 2021) and we are continuing to work to bring down research fringe rates which will increase the dollars available for investigators to do science. In addition, since Cindy Polinsky has stepped down, we have hired a new Executive Director who will begin working with us on August 1 (I will introduce her when she starts).

We have also entered into an agreement to form an affiliation with the American Federation of Teachers (AFT, <https://www.aft.org/>) which will provide us with an enhanced organizing program and provide many other benefits. AFT is a member of the AFL-CIO, which increases its national power. This is especially important now when state legislatures are clamping down on academic freedom and the awarding of tenure to faculty. I know you think that this couldn't happen in Connecticut, but that is also what we thought about the overturning of Roe vs. Wade. This AFT affiliation will provide us with greater power to protect our faculty and maintain the status that we currently enjoy at UConn Health.

Finally, I will continue to hold monthly meetings for in residence faculty members (at noon on the first Monday of the month). I am taking a vacation from these meetings over the summer and will resume them in October (on 10/3). If you need to discuss an issue before October, please feel free to contact me via email (my new email will be president@uchc-aaup.org as of July 1). I am always available to discuss any issue that is important to you.

Best regards,

Laura

Questions? Please contact
admin@uchc-aaup.org