



## Division of Biology and Medicine

June 29, 2009

Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to announce the appointment of Laurent Brossay, PhD, as interim chair of the Department of Molecular Microbiology and Immunology (MMI) effective July 1, 2009. Laurent Brossay will serve in this capacity until a permanent chair is recruited and appointed. Christine A. Biron, PhD, will be on sabbatical next year. Professor Biron has held the position as chair of MMI for the past 10 years and has been instrumental in developing active and integrated research programs among faculty, undergraduate, graduate, and medical students.

Laurent Brossay earned his master's degree in biology from Rennes University in France. He obtained his PhD in immunology from Laval University in Quebec City, Canada, followed by postdoctoral training at UCLA and La Jolla Institute for Allergy and Immunology in San Diego. He joined the faculty at Brown in 2000 as an Assistant Professor and was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure in 2006.

Laurent's lab is directed at understanding the molecular mechanisms controlling the activation of both Natural Killer (NK) and NK T cells, whose activation can determine the outcome of an immune response. He has been continuously funded by the NIH since 2000 and currently has an R01 grant. He is also a NIH Study Section Member in Immunity and Host Defense.

Laurent has served the University in many ways, including service on admissions, curriculum, and faculty search committees. His work as a mentor to undergraduate and graduate students is highly commendable and speaks to his commitment to education.

The Division is indeed fortunate that Laurent is taking on this key leadership position at a time of transition in the department.

Sincerely,

Edward J. Wing, MD  
Dean of Medicine and Biological Sciences  
Frank L. Day Professor of Biology  
The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University