

Joseph A. Rudnick Named Dean of Physical Sciences at UCLA

Los Angeles, Calif. — Joseph A. Rudnick has been named Dean of the Division of Physical Sciences at UCLA. His appointment is effective August 1, 2009, pending approval by the UC Regents.

A member of UCLA's physics faculty since 1984, Rudnick served as chair of the Department of Physics from 1986 to 1989 and chair of the Department of Physics and Astronomy from 2004 to 2006. He had served as acting dean of the Division of Physical Sciences since October 2006.

"I look forward to [Joe's] continued leadership, confident that the division will continue to thrive under his capable direction," said Scott L. Waugh, Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost.

In addition to serving in departmental and divisional roles, Rudnick has been active in university-wide academic leadership. He has served on a number of UCLA committees, including the Committee on Undergraduate Courses and Curricula, the Chancellor's Advisory Committee on Instructional Improvement, and the Council on Academic Personnel, for which he served as vice chair in 1996-97.

Rudnick has lectured internationally and has held appointments at a number of institutions, including the University of Washington; Tel Aviv University; Case Western Reserve University; Tufts University; and the University of California, Santa Cruz. A theoretical condensed matter physicist, he has a variety of research interests in the general field of statistical mechanics. His recent research has ranged from the purely physical – critical phenomena and exotic forms of magnetism – to the interface with biology in studies of the structure of viruses and the mechanical properties of DNA.

Rudnick holds a Ph.D. in physics from the University of California, San Diego and an A.B. in physics from the University of California, Berkeley.