

Pat Levitt, Ph.D., Appointed Director of the Zilkha Neurogenetic Institute at USC's Keck School of Medicine

Los Angeles — Pat Levitt, Ph.D. has been named Director of the Zilkha Neurogenetic Institute at the Keck School of Medicine, University of Southern California, effective November 1. He also will serve as Chair and Professor of Cell and Neurobiology and Provost's Professor of Neuroscience, Psychiatry, and Pharmacy, effective full-time July 1, 2009.

Dr. Levitt comes to USC from Vanderbilt University, where he is the Annette Schaffer Eskind Chair and Director of the Vanderbilt Kennedy Center for Research on Human Development and a tenured professor in the Department of Pharmacology at Vanderbilt University School of Medicine.

USC's Zilkha Neurogenetic Institute seeks to expand neuroscience initiatives by bringing together basic and clinical scientists. As the institute's director, Dr. Levitt is charged with 1) implementing a strategic plan on understanding the genetic and environmental basis for brain diseases; 2) leading faculty recruitment efforts in collaboration with basic and clinical departments at USC; and 3) developing plans to increase philanthropic efforts.

In his role as Chair of the Department of Cell Neurobiology, Levitt will work on an education and training framework for collaborative endeavors that address causes and cures of brain disease. As the Provost Professor of Neuroscience, Psychiatry, and Pharmacy, he will integrate neuroscience research, training and education programs.

Dr. Levitt has been with Vanderbilt University since 2002. Prior to that, he was chairman of the Department of Neurobiology and co-director of the Center for Neuroscience at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine from 1996 to 2001. Dr. Levitt has also held faculty positions at Yale University School of Medicine, the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School and the Medical College of Pennsylvania, where he was appointed associate dean for the Graduate School of Medical Sciences.

Named a McKnight Foundation Scholar in 2002, Dr. Levitt is an elected Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and is a member of the Dana Alliance for Brain Initiatives and the National Scientific Council on the Developing Child. Dr. Levitt serves on the editorial boards of various journals and was Senior Editor for the *Journal of Neuroscience* for six years.

Dr. Levitt has a long history of service to the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). He has published more than 200 papers and is currently principal investigator of three NIH R01 grants and two NIH P50 program project grants (project leader).

Dr. Levitt received his bachelor's degree in biology from the University of Chicago in 1975. He received his Ph.D. from the University of California, San Diego, in 1978 and completed an NIH Fellowship in Neuroanatomy at Yale University in 1981.