

Merck Executive and Noted Researcher Steven B. Heymsfield Named Executive Director of LSU's Pennington Biomedical Research Center

Baton Rouge, La. — Steven B. Heymsfield, global director for scientific affairs and obesity at Merck & Co., has been named Executive Director of the Louisiana State University System's Pennington Biomedical Research Center (PBRC). Heymsfield will assume his position June 1, 2010, pending approval by the LSU Board of Supervisors.

"I'm excited to announce that the Pennington Biomedical Research Center has been able to attract a strong new director, Dr. Steven Heymsfield, to take it to the next level," Governor Bobby Jindal told a recent gathering of state and university officials at PBRC.

As the head of the largest academic-based nutritional research center in the world, one of Heymsfield's primary responsibilities will be secure up to \$100 million in federal, state and corporate funds to generate 250 new positions tied to obesity- and diabetes-related clinical trials and research. PBRC also is undergoing a capital improvements program that is expected to create additional research positions in coming years.

"LSU is remarkably fortunate to have captured the talent, experience, and expertise of Steve Heymsfield to lead us in the next stage of development of the Pennington Biomedical Research Center as we compete for a rapid expansion of the PBRC's mission and portfolio," said LSU System President Dr. John V. Lombardi.

A physician and researcher, Heymsfield has pledged to expand partnerships and collaborations with state and federal organizations to attract top scientists from the United States and abroad.

"The Pennington Biomedical Research Center is in a unique position to promote healthier lives through research and education in nutrition and preventive medicine," Heymsfield said. "Our strong ties with the LSU System, including the health sciences centers in New Orleans and Shreveport, will provide us with intellectually diverse and talented teams that can solve major unanswered scientific questions that are beyond the reach of less-resourced research establishments."

Heymsfield is a former Director of the Human Body Composition Laboratory and Weight Control Unit as well as Deputy Director of the New York Obesity Research Center at St.

Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital in Manhattan. In addition, he was a Professor of Medicine at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons and a Visiting Scientist at Rockefeller University and the Brookhaven National Laboratory at Long Island, New York.

Dr. Heymsfield holds a bachelor's degree from Hunter College in New York and a degree in medicine from Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York. He completed his residency in Internal Medicine at Emory University, where he was a Fellow in Medicine prior to his Columbia appointment in 1986. He moved to Merck in November of 2004.

The author of nearly 430 peer-reviewed scientific articles, six books and more than 114 book chapters or reviews on obesity, anorexia, bulimia, malnutrition, pregnancy, body composition and caloric expenditure, Dr. Heymsfield developed the mathematical expression known as the Lithogenic Index that is commonly used to analyze bile in patients with gallstones. Dr. Heymsfield and his colleagues also were the first to use CT scans to explore human body composition and the relationship of liver disease and obesity as well as analyses of body fat and skeletal muscle mass among living patients. As a result of his research, new skeletal muscle mass measurement methods were developed and imaging techniques refined.

Dr. Heymsfield, a past president of both the American Society of Clinical Nutrition and the American Society of Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition, is an honorary member of the American Dietetic Association, Chilean Clinical Nutrition Association, Latin American and Argentine Medical Association along with the New York Dietetic Association. He also is a member of the Phi Sigma Biological Sciences Honor Society and a recipient of the Mosby Award in Clinical Medicine; Horowitz Alumni Award, Mount Sinai School of Medicine; Burroughs-Welcome Scholar in Basic Science; and the Rhoads Award from the American Society of Clinical Nutrition.