

UW-Madison: Erik Ranheim to become chair of pathology and laboratory medicine

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Dr. Erik Ranheim, an academic physician with a distinguished record of achievement in medical education, will be the next chair of the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine.

Ranheim has been a faculty member for nearly two decades and has served as vice chair of education for the department since 2011, and he is eager to take the helm of the department he has served for so many years, he said.

“I am humbled, honored and excited to lead an extraordinary group of clinicians, researchers, teachers and staff,” Ranheim said. “I have been deeply committed to our department, UW-Madison and the greater Madison community for nearly 20 years, and I look forward to pursuing excellence in all of our missions in a healthy and welcoming departmental environment.”

A highly respected leader with multi-faceted expertise, Ranheim has served in several leadership capacities to develop and maintain the school’s medical education curriculum. From 2007-15 he directed the department’s residency program. His research focuses on the fundamental processes underlying immunity and the application of those principles to understanding the development of leukemia and lymphoma and potential immunotherapies for a variety of cancers.

Pathologists, technical and professional staff in the department are at the forefront of diagnosing disease and ensuring proper treatment for patients, providing laboratory medicine services in anatomic pathology and clinical pathology for eight

hospital and clinic-based laboratories locally and across the Great Lakes region. Anatomic pathologists in the department process 60,000 surgical and hematopathology specimens, 30,000 cytologies, or cellular examinations, per year, and perform forensic and medical autopsies. Clinical pathologists and laboratory medicine staff conduct more than 3.8 million laboratory tests annually, analyzing bodily fluids such as urine, blood, plasma and saliva using state-of-the-art technology.

The department is also home to a vibrant research portfolio and is ranked 16th in the nation for funding from the National Institutes of Health. Researchers have focused on topics including the immunology of infectious diseases, neuroimmunology, Alzheimer's disease, cancer, glaucoma and hematopoietic stem cells.

Ranheim completed his undergraduate degree at the University of Pennsylvania, followed by a doctorate in immunology and a medical degree at the University of Minnesota. He completed his residency training in anatomic pathology, fellowships in hematopathology and autopsy and a postdoctoral research fellowship at Stanford University.

Ranheim received the Dean's Teaching Award and a Team Science Award from the Society for the Immunotherapy of Cancer. He has also been named Physician Citizen of the Year by the Wisconsin Medical Society, among other honors.

His background as a clinician, educator and researcher with a systems-level view makes him highly qualified to step into this role, according to Dr. Robert N. Golden, dean of the UW School of Medicine and Public Health.

"Dr. Ranheim is a deeply respected leader in our school and academic health system," he said. "It is exciting to see him step into this important leadership role. He understands the remarkable synergies that are created through the integration of our research, education and clinical missions."

Ranheim's appointment will be effective in mid-August.