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## **UM Pharmacy Dean Appointed to Help Shape Research, Education Policy on Women's Health Issues**

UNIVERSITY, Miss. – The dean of the University of Mississippi School of Pharmacy has a new role assisting colleagues at the National Institutes of Health to better address the scientific, legal and ethical issues affecting women's health across America.

Barbara G. Wells is beginning a four-year term on the Advisory Committee on Research on Women's Health for the Office of Research on Women's Health.

The ORWH, a division of the National Institutes of Health, or NIH, is charged with strengthening and enhancing research related to diseases and conditions that affect women and ensuring that women are represented in all the biomedical and behavioral studies supported by the agency. The ORWH also is responsible for developing and supporting career opportunities for women in biomedical fields.

“There are several really important women's health issues that need to be addressed through research and education,” Wells said. “There are some exciting new developments in research concerning several specific women's health concerns, so this is a very timely appointment.”

The 18-member Advisory Committee was established in 1993 to provide recommendations on refining the NIH's women's health research agenda, exploring gender differences in clinical drug trials, developing systems to improve research on the health needs of women, and monitoring the inclusion of women in NIH-funded projects.

Wells' research experience and educational skills make her a logical choice to help further the agency's goals, said Dr. Vivian W. Pinn, associate director for research on women's health and director of the ORWH.

“As one of the most outstanding people, and women, in pharmaceutical sciences in this country, her expertise will be invaluable to the NIH,” Pinn said, “especially as it relates to career development

and enhancement for women scientists, promoting interdisciplinary research and collaboration, and focusing on sex and gender influences on pharmacokinetics, pharmacodynamics and other factors that affect therapeutic decisions in women's health.”

Wells, who became dean in 2001, joined the faculty after serving six years as dean of the Idaho State University College of Pharmacy. A Memphis native, she served on the faculty of University of Tennessee, Memphis for 13 years and was the institution's vice chairman of the Department of Clinical Pharmacy and director of Mental Health Pharmacy Programs.

She is the president of the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy and has chaired several boards and committees for the association. One of six editors of “Pharmacotherapy: a Pathophysiologic Approach,” the most widely used of three major therapeutics texts in American pharmacy schools, she edits the book's sections on psychiatric, neurological, and gynecologic and obstetric disorders. She also co-authors chapters on depressive disorders and obsessive-compulsive disorder.