

Marietta Harrison, Ph.D.

Director

Oncological Sciences Center



Marietta L. Harrison received a BA in Chemistry from the University of New Hampshire and a PhD in Biochemistry from the University of Wyoming. She completed postdoctoral studies in tumor immunology at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle, Washington where she was the recipient of a Cancer Research Institute Postdoctoral Fellowship and a National Institutes of Health, National Research Service Award. She joined the faculty in the Department of Medicinal Chemistry and Molecular Pharmacology in the School of Pharmacy and Pharmacal Sciences at Purdue University in 1989. She rose through the academic ranks and in 1999 was promoted to Professor of Medicinal Chemistry and Molecular Pharmacology.

Dr. Harrison's research interests lie in the area of immune cell activation and the role of immunity in cancer surveillance. Her laboratory focuses on a key lymphocyte cell tyrosine kinase that she co-discovered during her postdoctoral training in collaboration with the laboratory of the 1992 Nobel Prize winner, Edwin G. Krebs. The Harrison laboratory studies the mechanisms underlying the function of this pivotal kinase and the group has published over 60 articles in peer-reviewed journals. Fifteen graduate students have received doctoral or master's degree under Harrison's direction.

Dr. Harrison served as a member of the NIH Experimental Immunology Study Section from 1997-2001, as Ad Hoc reviewer for the NIH Allergy and Immunology Study Section, the Transplantation, Tolerance and Tumor Immunology Study Section and various NIH Special Study Sections. She served two terms on the Editorial Board of the Journal of Biological Chemistry from 1995-2000 and 2003-2006 and as a standing member of the ASBMB Human Resource Committee from 1996-1999.

Dr. Harrison served as the Assistant Director of the NCI-designed Purdue Cancer Center from 1996-1998 and in 1998 she was promoted to Associate Director, a position she currently holds. Dr. Harrison was appointed the Interim Director of the Oncological Sciences Center (OSC) in Discovery Park when it was founded in 2005 and in 2007 she was appointed the Director of the OSC. She was a co-recipient of the Lafayette Lions Purdue Cancer Research Award in 1988 and in 2006 she received the Walther Cancer Institute "Collaborator of the Year Award" for her efforts to promote collaborations with clinicians and medical oncologists at the NCI-designated Indiana University Simon Cancer Center. She has been instrumental in establishing critical partnerships with local clinicians that has led to the Cancer Research Clinical Partnership program at the OSC.