MEMORANDUM

To: Academic Deans, Faculty, and Staff

From: Elizabeth Garrett
Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

Date: April 5, 2012

Subject: Appointment of Dr. Pinchas Cohen

On behalf of President Nikias, I am pleased to announce the appointment of Professor Pinchas Cohen as Dean of the USC Leonard Davis School of Gerontology. Professor Cohen will also hold the William and Sylvia Kugel Dean’s Chair in Gerontology and will act as the executive director of the Ethel Percy Andrus Gerontology Center. His appointment is effective August 1, 2012.

Dr. Cohen comes to USC from UCLA, where he has distinguished himself as an innovative researcher, a successful administrator and an inspiring leader. At the UCLA School of Medicine, he has served as vice chair for research, chief and professor of endocrinology at Mattel’s Children Hospital, and associate director of the UCSD/UCLA Diabetes Center. He has overseen numerous teaching, training, and research activities at UCLA and has been involved in multiple programs related to diseases of aging, including cancer, Alzheimer’s disease, and metabolic disorders.

Professor Cohen’s research is focused on the emerging field of mitochondrial biology; his team has demonstrated the importance of mitochondrial peptides in aging and longevity. Dr. Cohen is a celebrated scientist in the aging field and received many awards including a National Institute of Aging EUREKA Award, the NIH Director’s Transformative Research Grant, and the Glenn Award for Research in Biological Mechanisms of Aging. Dr. Cohen serves on the boards of several professional journals and societies, including the American Federation for Aging Research and the Growth Hormone Research Society. Dr. Cohen has also received support from a variety of private foundations including the Prostate Cancer Foundation, the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation, and the Friedman Foundation.

He is the co-founder of CohBar, a biotechnology company developing mitochondrial peptides for the treatment of diabetes. Dr. Cohen has published over 250 papers in top scientific journals and his work has been cited in the general media including the Los Angeles Times and the New York Times.
Professor Cohen received his MD degree with highest honors from the Technion School of Medicine in Israel, and was a resident and fellow at Stanford University, after which he spent seven years at the University of Pennsylvania. He has lived in Los Angeles for thirteen years.

Upon arriving at USC, Professor Cohen will lead the world’s preeminent institution of gerontological research and education, one that plays a key role in the academic and cultural life of this university. The school’s mission is to be the leader in the science of aging and promote all aspects of healthy aging, and it does so in a uniquely interdisciplinary fashion. The Davis School prepares and educates professionals in several aspects of gerontology including biology, psychology, and social sciences, as well as management and administration of institutions designed to serve older adults.

The school is a frontrunner and innovator in research, focused on aspects of gerontology ranging from demography, to social work, to prevention of falls, to the biology of aging. Its faculty has earned substantial federally-funded support. The Davis School reflects a vibrant mix of scholarship, professional training, and important community work.

I want to thank Professor Gerald Davison for his service as dean of the Davis School since 2007. He has also served the university by acting as interim dean of the School of Architecture and interim dean of the USC Annenberg School of Communication and chair of the department of psychology. He has been honored with the Albert S. Raubenheimer Distinguished Faculty Award, the Associates Award for Excellence in Teaching, the Mellon Award for Excellence in Mentoring, and designation as a Faculty Fellow of the Center for Excellence in Teaching. Professor Davison played an integral role in the development of Behavioral Therapy, and his textbook *Abnormal Psychology* is a classic now in its 11th edition. Upon completing his term as dean, Professor Davison will return to the Dornsife College to focus on his research and teaching.

I would also like to acknowledge the stellar work of the dean search advisory committee. Dean R. Pete Vanderveen of the USC School of Pharmacy chaired the committee astutely; and he was joined by Vice Provost Marty Levine and the other dedicated faculty members. Many faculty, staff, students, alumni, and supporters of the Davis School participated in the process, and their insight and contributions were extremely valuable throughout the search process.

Please join President Nikias and me in warmly congratulating Dr. Pinchas Cohen on his appointment as dean of the USC Leonard Davis School of Gerontology, and in welcoming him, his wife Wing, and their two children to the Trojan Family. We all look forward to their arrival this summer.

cc: C. L. Max Nikias
    Robert Abeles
    Al Checcio
    Todd Dickey
    Tom Jackiewicz
    Tom Sayles
    Carol Mauch Amir