Robert A. “Bob” Blouin is the Dean and Vaughn and Nancy Bryson Distinguished Professor of the UNC Eshelman School of Pharmacy at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Prior to his July 1, 2003 appointment as Dean, he was a long-time faculty member and administrator with the University of Kentucky College of Pharmacy. During that period, Dean Blouin served as the Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Education (1997-2003) and Executive Director of the Office for Economic Development and Innovations Management (2000-2003).

During his nine-year tenure at UNC, the UNC Eshelman School of Pharmacy has experienced unprecedented growth in its research (increased total extramural funding by 1500%) and education programs (increased its graduate and professional programs by 70% and 25%, respectively). The School maintained its #2 ranking as recently reported by U.S. News & World Reports. In addition, the School successfully launched two unique and innovative professional degree granting partnership program Elizabeth City, NC and Asheville, NC. This success has led to the development of an additional expansion proposal in Singapore.

The School has also launched several new school-based research-center initiatives (Center for Integrative Chemical Biology and Drug Discovery; Institute for Pharmacogenomics and Individualized Therapy; Center for Educational Excellence in Pharmacy; and Center for Nanotechnology in Drug Delivery). These interdisciplinary school-based centers have enabled the School to recruit outstanding scientists to Chapel Hill and extend the boundaries of collaborative science across the campus. To support this growth, the School has been successful in renovating and upgrading (technologically) Beard and Kerr Halls. In addition, the School moved into approximately 70K square feet of the new Genetic Medicine Building (a collaborative project with the UNC School of Medicine) in the fall of 2009 and will occupy approximately 75K additional square feet in the new Imaging Research Building in collaboration with the UNC School of Medicine to support its expanding efforts in drug discovery, nanotechnology in drug delivery, and biomarker imaging.

Dean Blouin led an effort to reengineer the School’s business operations. It began by performing a functional analysis of the entire operation utilizing an outside consulting group. Every position and workflow process was critically assessed for function and performance. A natural outcome of this process was the creation of new or a modification of existing staff/administrative positions. A collaborative matrix business model evolved from this process and was recently institutionalized within the School. An additional product of this innovation was the creation of an integration software program called InfoPorte™, which was developed by the UNC Eshelman School of Pharmacy, and adopted by the College of Arts and Sciences, the UNC School of Medicine, along with several other schools and university business clusters.

Dean Blouin has led a national discussion on the issues of clinical pharmaceutical scientist training, particularly at the graduate level. He has been extensively involved in launching a transformation in the professional and graduate curricula at UNC coined the Educational Renaissance. Dean Blouin’s research interests include studying the effect of disease and altered physiologic status on the pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics of drugs.

Updated: March 21, 2012