

David H. Murdock Research Institute

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**New President of the David H. Murdock Research Institute,
 Dr. Michael Luther, Has Ancestry in the Area**

Kannapolis, NC. (March 16, 2009) ó Dr. Michael Allen Luther has been named President of the David H. Murdock Research Institute of the North Carolina Research Campus. Dr. Luther is a visionary entrepreneurial leader in the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industry. He is a native North Carolinian, born in Albemarle, North Carolina.

“Dr. Luther has a distinguished career in science and is a proven entrepreneur. His education, experience and local roots make him the perfect candidate to grow the DHMRI into the organization we all have envisioned,” stated Dr. Steven Leath, President of the DHMRI Board of Directors and Vice President of Research for the University of North Carolina system. “We are pleased to welcome Mike as the new DHMRI President.”

“I am very excited to join DHMRI and the NCRC at this important time in the development of the institute and the NCRC. We have a real opportunity in Kannapolis to create a scientific community with a unique culture and collaborative environment. The possibilities are only limited by our imagination and I look forward to working with the various institutions, companies, and government agencies to bring to reality this vision of a campus that brings new focus and approaches to the intersections of agriculture, nutrition, and human health.”

Prior to joining the DHMRI, Dr. Luther was the Vice President, Basic Research and Site Head, where he led the work of Merck scientists at the Merck Frosst Centre for Therapeutic Research in Montreal. In this role, he was responsible for overseeing the development of novel therapeutics for respiratory, endocrine and metabolic disorders.

Dr. Luther spent 15 years at GlaxoSmithKline in RTP and the UK where his last role was a Vice President in Discovery Research. He also worked at the predecessor companies, Glaxo and Glaxo-Wellcome, in a number of roles of increasing responsibility including creating and leading a new business venture that integrated diagnostics and therapeutics called Predictive Medicine. Mike received his BS from North Carolina State University, his Ph.D. from St. Louis University School of Medicine, and his MBA from the Duke University Fuqua School of Business. He did post-graduate work as a Muscular Dystrophy Fellow at The Salk Institute.

“The lengthy and thorough search for the President of the David H. Murdock Research Institute has paid off with the outstanding selection of Dr. Luther,” said David H. Murdock. “The growing enclave of scientists gathering at the North Carolina Research Campus will benefit greatly from his presence among us.”

About the David H. Murdock Research Institute

The David H. Murdock Research Institute was established as a nonprofit organization to support groundbreaking research at the North Carolina Research Campus. Funded through a private grant by David H. Murdock, the DHMRI, with its state of the art facilities and capabilities, was established to be the catalyst in the development of NCRC as a world class research park. DHMRI and NCRC will host the world’s leading scientists to promote a level of unprecedented scientific collaboration and public-private partnerships never before possible in the areas of agriculture, nutrition, and human health. .