



Dan Monaghan, PhD

Dr. Monaghan, who has been named associate program director of the Interdisciplinary Graduate Program in Biomedical Sciences (IGPBS) program and director of IGPBS strategic initiatives, completed his bachelor's degree in life sciences at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln with a specialization in biochemistry and physiology. He received his PhD at the University of California-Irvine (UCI) in neurobiology. After a postdoctoral fellowship at UCI, he accepted an assistant professor position at UCI, but soon returned to Nebraska to join the UNMC Department of Pharmacology and Experimental Neuroscience.

His initial research focused on identifying the major families of glutamate receptors using biochemical techniques and characterizing their pharmacology and anatomical distributions. Current studies are in developing pharmacological agents for the NMDA receptor family of glutamate receptors. Dr. Monaghan has continued to maintain NIH and/or DoD funding throughout his career, has over 130 publications, more than 15,700 citations and an H-index of 57.

He has served on the editorial boards of *J. Neurochemistry* and *J. Pharmacology & Experimental Therapeutics*, has reviewed manuscripts for more than 80 different journals, reviewed grants for NIH, National Institute of Mental Health, National Science Foundation, March of Dimes, SUNY and 10 international grant funding agencies from England, Czech Republic, Denmark, Canada, Poland, Qatar, Switzerland and New Zealand, and he has consulted for the Michael J. Fox Foundation and Eisai Pharmaceuticals in Japan. He also has given invited lectures around the U.S. and in Germany, England, Japan, Brazil, Australia, China, Russia, Poland, Italy and Greece.

After returning to Nebraska, Dr. Monaghan focused on graduate student recruiting and training at UNMC. He initiated several recruiting and course development projects. He initiated an Eli Lilly Co.-funded summer undergraduate research program, an internship at Novartis in Basel, Switzerland, for UNMC students, and he served as his department's graduate committee chair. He established UNMC's common-entry PhD program, the Biomedical Research Training Program (BRTP), in 2000, and has served as the program's only director. This led to a greater than threefold increase in domestic PhD students, with half the levels of student attrition, and significantly increased minority student recruitment.

He then co-chaired the committee merging UNMC's six departmental basic science PhD programs with the BRTP to form the IGPBS. To enhance student career development, Dr. Monaghan established two courses at the University of Nebraska at Omaha to give UNMC students teaching opportunities ("Common Medicines" and "The Biology of Human Disease"). He also established the Teaching Proficiency Program and the NU Regents-approved Business for Bioscientists Certificate Program. To support these activities, he wrote two current NU Programs of Excellence. To improve PhD training opportunities, he developed a postbaccalaureate program for pre-PhD students with disadvantaged backgrounds that was then redirected toward pre-medical students. More recently he wrote, and is now co-principal investigator, of an NIH T32 training grant in neuroimmunology and directs the Neuroscience and Neuroimmunology Internship Program, a postbaccalaureate program for pre-PhD students.