

# NEWS RELEASE

**Wilfrid Laurier  
University**



## **International researcher to lead Laurier's new faculty of science**

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WATERLOO – A biochemist with an international reputation has been appointed Wilfrid Laurier University's first dean of science. Arthur Szabo will become dean of the newly formed faculty of science on February 1, 2000.

"Dr. Szabo is a well-established research scientist with extensive experience at the National Research Council and at two universities," said Rowland Smith, vice-president: academic. "His work on many public and private agencies, as well as his distinguished record as a scientist, make him ideally suited, as first dean of science at Laurier, to work with faculty members in focusing an academic vision for the new faculty."

Szabo, 60, received a bachelor of science in chemistry and mathematics from Queen's University, and a master of arts and doctorate of philosophy from the University of Toronto. Following two years as a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Southampton, he joined the National Research Council in Ottawa, where he remained until 1994.

That year, he joined the University of Windsor, where he has been a professor of chemistry and biochemistry, department head, and interim director of the Great Lakes Institute for Environmental Research.

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Szabo's research interests lie in "how proteins interact with each other, and what controls those interactions," he explained. "If you understand how molecular components interact, you can design a drug to inhibit that interaction."

Szabo is a prodigious researcher, with 145 publications and two international patents. He has also presented more than 175 papers at meetings – many with industrial and international collaborators – and has been a visiting scientist or professor at universities in Poland, France, Spain, Italy, and Brazil.

Over the years, Szabo has received operating and equipment grants from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council totaling well over \$1 million. He has also received funding from external sources such as the Heart and Stroke Foundation and Bayer-Red Cross.

Szabo will bring a \$750,000 pulse laser system with him to Laurier, plus three graduate students and post-doctorate student from England, who will continue to work with him at the University of Waterloo, where he will be an adjunct professor.

"This is an exciting opportunity to try to build a faculty," said Szabo. One of the things he will do at Laurier is look at the possibility of creating more graduate programs in science, which would also stimulate research at the university.

Laurier decided to divide its faculty of arts and science into two separate faculties late in 1998. The partition, which takes effect in January 2000, will allow members of the new faculties to more closely focus on teaching and research in their respective areas.