



March 20, 2008

Dear Colleague:

We are writing to apprise you of an exciting event that will take place at the University of Tennessee on Monday, June 16, 2008. On that day, in celebration of the upcoming 65th birthday of Professor Jeffrey M. Becker, we will hold a one-day symposium (8:30AM-5:30PM) dedicated to the science that has dominated Jeff's life at the University of Tennessee followed by a festive banquet. We have assembled a distinguished group of nationally and internationally reputed speakers for a symposium that will be interesting, informative, and fun.

Jeff Becker came to Knoxville as an Assistant Professor of Microbiology in the Fall of 1972. In his 35 plus years at UT Jeff has made many contributions to undergraduate and graduate education in the biological and biochemical sciences. He is a citizen-scientist who has always been willing to take on extra tasks, much to the benefit of the academic community. He has served UT as a member of both the Departments of Microbiology and Biochemistry, Cellular and Molecular Biology and as Founding Director of the School of Genome Science and Technology with the Oak Ridge National Laboratory. He has worked closely with faculty from numerous departments in spearheading high level seminars and intellectual interchange in the biological/biochemical sciences. He currently serves as Head of the Department of Microbiology.

Jeff, an outstanding teacher and mentor, was awarded the Alexander Prize for superior classroom teaching and distinguished scholarship in 1994. He has had a productive and distinguished research career receiving continuous NIH support for more than 30 years, in addition to support from NSF, the American Cancer Society and industry. He is a consultant and a founder of a biotech company, a reviewer for NIH and NSF and the author of several books and more than 200 research articles. Most importantly he is a great UT citizen and a prominent spokesperson for science at UT. The scientific day is titled "A Celebration of the Career of Jeffrey M. Becker" and on Monday evening a banquet will conclude the "birthday party". A registration fee of \$25.00 includes participation in the symposium and the banquet. We hope that you will join us for what will be a meaningful tribute to Jeff. A poster publicizing the day is enclosed or attached. We look forward to your early registration so we can plan accordingly. If you require accommodations please contact Ms. Nancy Loftis (nloftis@utk.edu).

Please register through the website (<http://web.bio.utk.edu/micro/becker/symposium.shtml>)
and by sending a check to:

Nancy Loftis
Becker Symposium Registration
Department of Microbiology
M409 Walters Building
University of Tennessee
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Sincerely,

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Melinda Hauser (mhauser@utk.edu)