



health sciences & services authority of spokane county

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact:

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HSSA Board Hires Executive Director

SPOKANE, WA – The Health Sciences & Services Authority (HSSA) today announced that it has hired Susan Ashe to serve as its Executive Director. Ashe had been serving as the Acting Executive Director for more than two years.

“The HSSA Board conducted a vigorous search and interview process,” said Nancy Isserlis, Board Chair, “after which it approved the hiring of Susan Ashe to serve as its Executive Director.” The Board unanimously approved the search committee’s recommendation at its regularly scheduled August 1, 2012, board meeting.

“We had several applications and ultimately interviewed four (4) candidates for the position, and Susan was clearly the right choice,” Isserlis said.

Ashe brings 30 years of experience in public policy and communications to the position, and was instrumental in managing the start-up of the HSSA organization, designing and implementing its health sciences grants program, and leading the organization through a public strategic investment planning initiative last year in collaboration with Empire Health Foundation.

Ashe is a graduate of Eastern Washington University and previously worked for the City of Spokane’s Mayor’s Office in charge of legislative affairs. Prior to serving the City, she spent several years as Public Affairs Manager for Kaiser Aluminum’s northwest regional operations. She owns and operates Ashe Public Affairs.

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About HSSA:

The **Health Sciences & Services Authority (HSSA) of Spokane County** was established in 2007 by the Washington legislature, authorized county-wide by Spokane County in 2008 and began operating in 2009. Its mission is to invest in health sciences research to promote economic development, advance new therapies and procedures to combat disease and to promote public health. HSSA invests funds to create and support a nationally competitive health sciences research cluster in Spokane County, and works to catalyze higher education research and the health sciences industry that will lead to higher wage jobs, long-term sustainability and economic diversification. For more information, visit our website at www.hssaspokane.org or call 509.385.2113.

About Our Board:

Nancy Isserlis, City Attorney, City of Spokane, and HSSA Board Chair; Earl F. “Marty” Martin, Ph.D., Executive Vice President, Gonzaga University and HSSA Board Vice Chair; Michael Wilson, Chief Executive, Providence Health Care and Grants Committee Chair; Jason Thackston, Vice President of Energy Delivery, Avista Corp. and Finance Committee Chair; Dr. Jeff Collins, Medical Director, Providence Health Care; Kevin Oldenburg, Ph.D., President, Matrical Bioscience; David J. Vachon, Ph.D., CEO/Founder, Iasis Molecular Sciences, and Dr. Francisco Velázquez, President & CEO, PAML and PAML Ventures.