

Dr. Eric L. Barker is a distinguished academic leader and neuropharmacologist with a 28-year career at Purdue University, an R1 multi-campus, land-grant institution. Currently serving as the Vice President for Health Affairs and the Jeannie and Jim Chaney Dean of Pharmacy, Dr. Barker brings a wealth of executive experience in managing complex institutional transformations, fostering high-level philanthropic success, and driving interdisciplinary research innovation. As Vice President for Health Affairs, he provides administrative oversight for three colleges—Health and Human Sciences, Veterinary Medicine, and Pharmacy—encompassing over 8,600 students, 660 faculty, and a \$268.6 million annual budget. His ability to lead during periods of transition was evidenced by his role as Associate Provost for Graduate Programs, where he directed the "Graduate School Transformation Project" to streamline system-wide processes for 14,000 graduate students and postdoctoral fellows. In addition, Dr. Barker was tapped by Purdue President Mitch Daniels to lead the medical response to the COVID-19 pandemic from 2020 to 2022. Currently, he is at the forefront of Purdue's "One Health" initiative, a cross-disciplinary framework integrating human, animal, and plant health through new academic programs, research, and community engagement. Dr. Barker's leadership style is defined by approachability, a commitment to shared governance, and a dedication to free inquiry. He is a highly effective communicator who excels at bridging the gap between internal academic stakeholders and external partners.

A Professor of Medicinal Chemistry and Molecular Pharmacology, Dr. Barker is a recognized scholar in the molecular actions of drugs of abuse. His research has been supported by agencies, including the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) and DARPA. Beyond the laboratory, he is an award-winning educator, having received Purdue's highest undergraduate teaching honor, the Charles B. Murphy Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award, and induction into the Purdue Book of Great Teachers. His editorial leadership as Editor-in-Chief of *Pharmacological Reviews* further underscores his standing in the global scientific community.

As one of the most effective fundraising leaders at Purdue, Dr. Barker has secured nearly \$280 million in philanthropic support during his tenure as dean. His strategic approach to advancement has consistently placed his unit as the top performer during the university's annual Day of Giving, raising record-breaking totals such as \$24.5 million in a single day in 2025. His capital campaign achievements include raising \$45 million for a new Nursing-Pharmacy Education Building. Dr. Barker's expertise in complex giving vehicles and donor engagement has resulted in multiple \$20 million gifts to support student entrepreneurship, health analytics, and drug discovery.