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For immediate release

SRNL SCIENTIST ALSO TO WORK WITH UNIVERSITY OF S.C.

Aiken, S.C. (May 7)—A scientist with the Savannah River National Laboratory has also become a Research Associate Professor with the University of South Carolina College of Arts and Sciences, the first time such an appointment has been made.

Senior Scientist Christopher “Kitt” Bagwell, who has a doctorate in biological sciences, will work in the Department of Biological Sciences of the university. The offer of the appointment was made by Mary Anne Fitzpatrick, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

A particular area of focus will be mechanisms used by soil-dwelling bacteria for coping with environmental stress and cellular damage.

“This is an excellent opportunity for both of our institutions,” said SRNL Laboratory Director Dr. G. Todd Wright. “It will bring SRNL staff closer together with USC’s in work in the area of applied bacterial genomics, it will open up opportunities for mutual research and will hopefully attract more USC graduate students to the many collaborative opportunities offered at SRNL.

“We also anticipate this expanded relationship will lead to additional funding for basic research through the National Science Foundation,” Dr. Wright said.

“We hope this will be the first of many similar collaborative endeavors between USC and SRNL,” said Dr. Tim Mousseau, Associate Dean for Research in USC’s College of Arts and Science. “We are very excited by the prospects of long-term interactions with the new Savannah River National Laboratory, which we believe could greatly enhance our success in environmental and energy-related research.”

Dr. Bagwell joined the Environmental Sciences and Biotechnology Department of SRNL in 2002. He earned his Ph.D. at the University of South Carolina and held a post-doctoral position in bacterial ecology and genomics at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Oak Ridge, Tenn.

SRNL is the applied research and development laboratory at DOE’s Savannah River Site, putting science to work in the areas of energy security, national and homeland security, and environmental management.

WSRC-07-10

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