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New Stony Brook president's emphasis is on research

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A global infectious disease expert who runs a biodefense center and manages a half-billion-dollar research fund will become the fifth president of Stony Brook University, school officials announced Thursday.

Dr. Samuel Stanley, vice chancellor for research at Washington University in St. Louis, is expected to start July 1, pending formal approval by state university trustees.

Stanley manages a \$548 million research portfolio for Washington University, a highly selective private college that is ranked 12th among national research universities by U.S. News and World Report.



Members of the presidential search committee said they believe Stanley is well suited to build and advance the university's various scientific strengths and its national reputation.

"Dr. Stanley has the scientific expertise and understanding to promote and strengthen the collaboration between Stony Brook, Brookhaven National Lab and Cold Spring Harbor Lab," said Sam Aronson, director of Brookhaven Lab and a search committee member.

A Harvard-educated doctor, Stanley has spent most of his professional life at Washington University's School of Medicine. He was appointed vice chancellor for research in 2006.

Stanley did not return calls seeking comment Thursday. In a statement, he said: "In its short life, Stony Brook has accomplished some remarkable things. I look forward to working with my new colleagues . . . to position the university to take its place among the truly great research universities of the nation."

His appointment is expected to be approved by SUNY trustees in early May, though incoming chancellor Nancy Zimpher has already endorsed the pick.

Stony Brook president Shirley Strum Kenny announced last year she would retire in June after 14 years on the job. Kenny, whose expertise is in English literature, was president of Queens College when appointed to Stony Brook's top job.

By comparison, Stanley's professional background is steeped in scientific research, with barely three

years in a high-level administrative post.

Still, those who work with him at Washington University say Stanley's low-key manner and scientific resume belie wide-ranging interests and top-flight organizational skills.

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