

Janet Blanks, Ph.D.

Interim Dean, Charles E. Schmidt College of Science

Dr. Blanks earned a Ph.D. in Anatomy from the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA) and subsequently received post-doctoral fellowships at the Jules Stein Eye Institute (UCLA), the Max Planck for Brain Research (Frankfurt, Germany) and Children's Hospital in Boston, an affiliate of Harvard Medical School. Her first faculty position was in the Department of Ophthalmology at the University of Southern California (Los Angeles, CA) where she spent almost 20 years funded by a variety of external sources, including the National Eye Institute (NIH), the National Institute of Aging (NIH) and Research To Prevent Blindness. She left USC in 1997 to assume the position of Director of the Eye Research Institute at Oakland University (Rochester Hills, MI). In 2002, Dr. Blanks joined FAU to help design and implement the initial curriculum in the FAU College of Medicine, which at that time was a regional campus of the Miller School of Medicine, University of Miami. She joined the College of Science in 2007 as the Director of the Center for Complex Systems and Brain Sciences. Dr. Blanks became Interim Dean of the College of Science in June, 2015.

Dr. Blanks is a retinal cell biologist specializing in translational research focused on developing innovative treatments for retinal degenerative diseases, including Age-related Macular Degeneration (AMD) and Diabetic Retinopathy. Dr. Blanks has been a Principal Investigator or Co-Investigator on over forty five funded research grants, totaling over \$7.5 million over the span of her career, and she has numerous peer-reviewed publications in prestigious science and medical journals. She also currently holds one patent on the use of gene therapy to treat AMD with another patent under review.