**Dr. Michael W. Fountain**

Prior to retiring from USF in June of 2020, Michael W. Fountain served for 18 years as the Founding Director of the USF Center for Entrepreneurship. He held senior faculty appointments at the University of South Florida (USF), serving as the John & Beverley Grant Endowed Chair in Entrepreneurship in the Muma College of Business, Professor in the Taneja College of Pharmacy, the USF College of Engineering, The Morsani College of Medicine, The Institute for Advanced Discovery and Innovation. Dr. Fountain also served as the Executive Director of the Tampa Bay Research and Innovation Center (TBRIC) housed at the USF Center for Advanced Medical and Learning Simulation (CAMLS). He has been recognized as one of the most outstanding entrepreneurship educators in the United States being named by the United States Association for Small Business and Entrepreneurship (USASBE) a Justin Logenecker Fellow in 2015.

Prior to Joining the faculty at USF, he has been a prolific entrepreneur and innovator for over 35 years developing multiple drug and compound encapsulation technology platforms, These patented technologies, at both the micro and nanoscale, have been incorporated into intravenous human therapeutics for cancer chemotherapy (Doxcil), intravenous human anti-infective products (Ambisome), genetically engineered diagnostic assays for detection and monitoring of autoimmune disease disorders (EZAccess), veterinary products (Hyssop Health)and numerous dermatological and skin care products (Lyphazome, Celazome, Daylong, Solong, Octazome and many private label products).

An expert in creating, financing, and growing biotechnological, medical device, and life science companies, Dr. Fountain has founded or co-founded eleven new ventures (three of which became publicly traded companies) and patented and commercialized numerous innovative medical and diagnostic products (including sustained release anti-cancer drugs, genetically engineered diagnostic products for autoimmune diseases, microencapsulated dermatologic products and vaccine products for prevention of human and animal infectious disease). He was a pioneer in the development and application of the use of phospholipids in micro- and nano-particle technologies for compound encapsulation. He was selected a Fellow in the National Academy of Inventors in 2014 for his technological innovations resident in over 70 issued US and international patents which are utilized in over 100 healthcare products sold worldwide. In 2014 he received the Distinguished Faculty Research and Innovation award at USF. Dr. Fountain has been instrumental in the development and deploying successful entrepreneurial programs on an international level with USF’s graduate entrepreneurship educational programs ranked by the Princeton Review in the top 25 in the United States every year since 2006. He also served as an Entrepreneur-in-Residence with the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation overseeing strategy, venture capital and private equity, and life sciences entrepreneurship programs across the country.

Dr. Fountain received an Honors BS from Samford University, MS and PhD from Auburn University, and MBA from Bristol University. During his corporate career he served in leadership roles including Chief Scientific Officer, Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board of Directors. Currently, Dr. Fountain serves on the Boards of Directors and Advisory Boards of companies relating to the fields of nano-engineering, biotechnology and life sciences.