



HHMI Broadens Scientific Leadership

JACK DIXON TO JOIN INSTITUTE FROM UCSD

THE TRUSTEES OF THE HOWARD HUGHES Medical Institute have elected Jack E. Dixon, now Dean of Scientific Affairs at the University of California, San Diego (UCSD), School of Medicine, as vice president and chief scientific officer, a position previously held by David A. Clayton. Clayton will become vice president for research operations. The appointments will become effective February 1, 2007.

Currently a member of the Institute's Medical Advisory Board, Dixon will play major roles in HHMI's flagship investigator program and in identifying opportunities that capitalize on the Institute's expertise in biomedical research and science education.

Clayton, who joined HHMI from Stanford University in 1996, will manage the Institute's research operations, including budgets, salaries, and major equipment purchases. He will continue to oversee the Institute's investments in research facilities, such as the synchrotron beamlines built by HHMI at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory in Berkeley, California.

Dixon plans to maintain his laboratory at UCSD, where he is also a professor of pharmacology, cellular and molecular medicine, and chemistry and biochemistry. "I think you can be a better scientific leader if your feet are on the ground and you are dealing with the same things as the investigators," he says.

A member of the Institute of Medicine and the National Academy of Sciences,

Dixon has had a distinguished scientific career. Trained as a chemist, he received a Ph.D. in chemistry from the University of California, Santa Barbara, in 1971 and joined the biochemistry faculty at Purdue University in 1973. He became co-director of Michigan's Life Sciences Institute in 2001 and then joined UCSD in 2003 as dean of scientific affairs.

Dixon's research has focused on protein tyrosine phosphatases, a group of proteins that govern an essential biochemical reaction in which a phosphate group is added

Jack Dixon (left) and David Clayton (right) will lead the Institute's science program and research operations, respectively.

to another protein. The reaction, called phosphorylation, serves as a signaling mechanism between cells and could play a role in elucidating the uncontrolled growth typical of cancer, the establishment and wiring of neurons, and the ability of bacteria and viruses to thwart the immune system.

Clayton is a molecular biologist who is a leader in the study of mitochondrial genes in health and in disease. A member of the Institute of Medicine, Clayton received his Ph.D. from the California Institute of Technology in 1970. He was a professor in the pathology and developmental biology departments at Stanford as well as associate director of the Beckman Center for Molecular and Genetic Medicine.

Clayton became an HHMI vice president in 2000. Since then, he has played a crucial role in early planning for the Janelia Farm Research Campus and in heading HHMI's science program. ■

Briggs and McCleskey Join Institute

HHMI HAS APPOINTED RESEARCHER AND PHYSICIAN Josephine P. Briggs as senior scientific officer and neuroscientist Edwin W. McCleskey as scientific officer, effective September 1, 2006. Both will work from the Institute's headquarters in Chevy Chase, Maryland, to support the research of HHMI investigators across the country.

Briggs comes to HHMI from the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases. She served as co-chair of a National Institutes of Health (NIH) working group responsible for implementing key elements of the NIH Roadmap, which aims to facilitate the translation of basic discoveries into clinical applications. Briggs has played a leading role in developing genomic resources for zebrafish, an important model organism for the study of development and disease. Her research on kidney physiology resulted in more than 100 peer-reviewed publications and led to a greater understanding of progressive renal disease, hypertension, and congestive heart failure.

Briggs received her M.D. from Harvard Medical School and did her residency training at Mount Sinai School of Medicine. Before moving to NIH in 1997, she spent 12 years at the University of Michigan Medical School as a faculty member in

Latin American, Canadian Science Stars Awarded \$19 Million

Thirty-nine scientists in Latin America and Canada have been named HHMI international research scholars for their accomplishments and promising biomedical research. Chosen from 546 applicants, the 18 new and 21 renewing scholars will each receive a five-year grant totaling \$250,000 to \$500,000. ¶ Launched in 1991, HHMI's international research scholar program supports outstanding scientists in their own countries, linking them with each other and with other HHMI scientists to create an international network of scientific excellence. The Institute has awarded more than \$100 million in grants to scientists in 32 countries on every continent. ¶ The new (indicated by an asterisk) and renewing international research scholars are:

Argentina

Diego de Mendoza, *Institute of Molecular and Cellular Biology of Rosario, CONICET*

A. Belén Elgoyhen, *Institute for Research on Genetic Engineering and Molecular Biology, CONICET*

A. Carlos Frasch, *Institute for Research in Biotechnology, National University of General San Martín*

Fernando Goldbaum, *Leloir Institute Foundation*

Alberto Kornblihtt, *University of Buenos Aires*

Javier Palatnik*, *Institute of Molecular and Cellular Biology of Rosario, CONICET*

Armando Parodi, *Leloir Institute Foundation*

Marcelo Rubinstein, *Institute for Research on Genetic Engineering and Molecular Biology, CONICET*

Alejandro Schinder*, *Leloir Institute Foundation*

Alejandro Vila, *Institute of Molecular and Cellular Biology of Rosario, CONICET*

Pablo Wappner*, *Leloir Institute Foundation*

Marcelo Yanovsky*, *Institute for Agricultural Plant Physiology and Ecology, CONICET*

Brazil

Marie Leite*, *Federal University of Minas Gerais*

Pedro Oliveira, *Federal University of Rio de Janeiro*

Alexandre Peixoto, *Oswaldo Cruz Foundation*

Canada

Lea Harrington*, *Ontario Cancer Institute*

Philip Hieter*, *University of British Columbia*

Timothy Hughes*, *University of Toronto*

Freda Miller*, *The Hospital for Sick Children*

Dana Philpott*, *University of Toronto*

Richard Rachubinski, *University of Alberta*

Michael Rudnicki, *Ottawa Health Research Institute*

Michael Salter*, *The Hospital for Sick Children*

Erwin Schurr*, *McGill University*

Eric Shoubridge, *McGill University*

Nahum Sonenberg, *McGill University*

Peter St George-Hyslop, *University of Toronto*

Natalie Strynadka, *University of British Columbia*

Michael Tyers*, *Samuel Lunenfeld Research Institute*

André Veillette*, *Clinical Research Institute of Montreal*

Yu Tian Wang, *University of British Columbia*

Richard Wozniak*, *University of Alberta*

Jeffrey Wrana, *Samuel Lunenfeld Research Institute*

Chile

Miguel Concha*, *Institute of Biomedical Sciences, University of Chile*

Mexico

Luis Briebe-De Castro*, *Center for Research and Advanced Studies of the National Polytechnic Institute*

Luis Herrera Estrella, *Center for Research and Advanced Studies of the National Polytechnic Institute*

Ranulfo Romo, *Institute of Cellular Physiology, National Autonomous University of Mexico*

Jean-Philippe Vielle-Calzada, *Center for Research and Advanced Studies of the National Polytechnic Institute*

Venezuela

Raúl Padrón, *Venezuelan Institute for Scientific Research (IVIC)*

the departments of internal medicine and physiology. Before that, she was a research scientist at the University of Munich.

McCleskey will remain a senior scientist and professor at the Vollum Institute for Advanced Biomedical Research, Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU). He was director of the Neuroscience Graduate Program at OHSU from 1996 to 2002 and has served as co-director of the neurobiology course at the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole, Massachusetts, since 2004. McCleskey has made significant contributions to our knowledge of ion channel function and how opiates suppress pain. His work helped discern the role of acid-sensing ion channels in ischemic heart pain, an important signal in cardiovascular disease and myocardial infarction.

McCleskey received his Ph.D. in physiology from the University of Washington, and did postdoctoral training at Yale University School of Medicine. He was a faculty member at Washington University School of Medicine from 1987 to 1993, before joining the Vollum Institute. ■



Senior scientific officer, Josephine Briggs (left), and scientific officer, Edwin McCleskey (below), join the team supporting HHMI investigators across the country.

