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HHMI Appoints Chief Operating Officer for Janelia Farm

Howard Hughes Medical Institute has named Cheryl A. Moore as associate director and chief operating officer of its Janelia Farm Research Campus. Moore will help HHMI develop and implement an administrative and management structure for the research facility, which is under construction in Loudoun County, Virginia. She will oversee all fiscal and administrative services at the 281-acre campus, which is scheduled to open in 2006.

Moore comes to HHMI from the Burnham Institute, a private, nonprofit life-sciences research center in La Jolla, California, where she has been senior vice president, chief operating officer and chief administrative officer. A graduate of the University of San Diego and a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, she has held top-level management positions with an international financial services firm and two managed healthcare companies.

“I love the diversity of research,” says Moore. “The people I work with are at the top of their fields, and they bring an extraordinary energy and enthusiasm to their work, which inspires me.”

Moore brings “broad experience in a biomedical research environment and a deep appreciation of what it takes to nurture a creative enterprise,” says Gerald M. Rubin, HHMI vice president and director of the Janelia Farm Research Campus. “What’s more, she comes with the enthusiasm and can-do attitude that will be required to make Janelia a success.”

Janelia Farm will be a unique, world-class biomedical research complex, home to a broad range of scientific programs that will stress collaborative effort and groundbreaking, technology-driven biomedical research. It will house a permanent research staff of 200 to 300 and host visiting scientists and scientific conferences.

“My goal is to work with Gerry Rubin to create a uniquely creative research environment free of bureaucratic hassles, in an atmosphere of openness, support and freedom,” Moore explains. “My goal in managing the business of research is to remove as many impediments to the advancement of science as I can, to help our researchers move more quickly toward scientific discovery.”

I will know that Janelia Farm is successful when people comment on how much fun it is to work there because of the sense of teamwork and intellectual stimulation.”

Originally from Illinois, Moore has lived in San Diego for more than 20 years. While there, she has served in leadership positions in the community through organizations such as the Association of Independent Research Institutes, the San Diego Economic Development Council, and an advisory board of the University of San Diego. She is looking forward to becoming active in local Loudoun County organizations.