

MAY 19, 1997

## Howard Hughes Medical Institute Announces Selection of 70 New Investigators: Expansion Is Biggest Ever for Nation's Largest Philanthropy

The Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) today announced the names of 70 scientists who have been selected in a national competition to be appointed as HHMI investigators. This expansion, the largest ever undertaken in one step by the Institute, will increase the number of Hughes investigators by approximately 25 percent.

"These outstanding scientists are being invited to join one of the most creative and productive groups of researchers in the world," said Purnell W. Choppin, M.D., president of the Institute, which is the largest philanthropic organization in the United States. "Their selection was the result of an intensely competitive process and is a tribute to their ability and promise as research scientists." The 70 men and women selected must now be formally appointed.

Assuming that all of them are able to accept the appointment, the HHMI scientific staff will increase to more than 330 investigators, based at 72 medical schools, universities, and research institutes located throughout the country.

The Institute's endowment is currently about \$9.6 billion and the total HHMI budget for the current fiscal year is \$455 million. The Institute's biomedical research expenditures this fiscal year will total about \$338 million, including both national and local administrative costs, as well as related expenses such as the costs for laboratories and other facilities. Once the planned expansion has been fully implemented, which could take as long as one year or more, it is expected to add more than \$50 million per year to the Institute's research expenditures. HHMI will also spend about \$86 million this year on its grants program, which focuses upon science education.

In May 1996, the Institute sent letters to more than 200 U.S. institutions involved in biomedical research inviting nominations of outstanding biomedical scientists to be considered for appointment as HHMI investigators. By September 3, 1996, the closing date, approximately 370 nominations had been received. Candidates were evaluated last month by a

review committee of distinguished biomedical scientists meeting on the HHMI campus in Chevy Chase, Maryland, located just outside Washington, D.C. Following the recommendations of the advisors, 70 scientists were selected for potential appointment. This is the third national competition to select HHMI investigators. The last, held in 1994, resulted in the appointment of 44 new investigators. Hughes investigators conduct biomedical research in five areas: cell biology, genetics, immunology, neuroscience and structural biology. In recent years, they have made significant discoveries related to obesity, AIDS, cancer, diabetes, hypertension, cardiac arrhythmias, cystic fibrosis, muscular dystrophy and many other medical problems. Research papers by HHMI scientists are among those cited most often by other researchers, one measure of scientific impact.

As a medical research organization, the Institute enters into long-term research collaboration agreements with universities and other academic research organizations, where its investigators hold faculty appointments. Under these agreements, HHMI investigators, who are employees of the Institute, conduct their scientific research in Institute laboratories located on the various campuses. Among the researchers selected in the competition are faculty members of 10 institutions with which the Institute does not yet have a collaborative relationship. In those cases, the appointment process will include the negotiation of an interinstitutional agreement, as well as the usual considerations associated with employing new investigators on the Institute's scientific staff.

During the course of discussions in the appointment process, it is possible that a selected scientist could decline to join the Institute. The Institute also has a complementary grants program that focuses upon science education. Its aims are to strengthen science education and to encourage talented young students, especially women and minorities, to pursue research and science teaching careers. The Institute's undergraduate grants program is the largest private educational initiative in U.S. history. The Institute also supports through grants the research of biomedical scientists in selected countries outside the United States.

#### **Howard Hughes Medical Institute 1997 Investigator Competition Candidates**

**Paul G. Ahlquist** University of Wisconsin–Madison **Thomas D. Albright**  
The Salk Institute for Biological Studies

**James P. Allison** University of California, Berkeley

**Joanne Chory** The Salk Institute for Biological Studies

**David E. Clapham** Children's Hospital, Boston

**Joan W. Conaway** Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation

**Harry C. Dietz** The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine

**Jennifer Anne Doudna** Yale University

**Catherine Dulac** Harvard University

**Richard H. Ebright** Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

**Stanley Fields** University of Washington School of Medicine

**Joachim Frank** Wadsworth Center, New York State Department of Health

**Joanna L. Groden** University of Cincinnati College of Medicine

**Eduardo A. Groisman** Washington University School of Medicine

**Steven Hahn** Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center

**James N. Ihle** St. Jude Children's Research Hospital

**Simon W.M. John** The Jackson Laboratory

**Alexandra Joyner** New York University School of Medicine **William G. Kaelin, Jr.** Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

**Chaitan Khosla** Stanford University

**David M. Kingsley** Stanford University School of Medicine

**Douglas Koshland** Carnegie Institution of Washington

**Mark A. Krasnow** Stanford University School of Medicine

**Daniel J. Leahy** The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine

**Ruth Lehmann** New York University School of Medicine

**Stephen G. Lisberger** University of California, San Francisco

**Richard M. Locksley** University of California, San Francisco

**Roderick MacKinnon** The Rockefeller University

**Gail Mandel** State University of New York at Stony Brook School of Medicine

**Robert F. Margolskee** Mount Sinai School of Medicine

**Sanford Markowitz** Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine

**Michael A. Marletta** The University of Michigan College of Pharmacy

**John H.R. Maunsell** Baylor College of Medicine

**Barbara J. Meyer** University of California, Berkeley

**Melissa J. Moore** Brandeis University

**Kenneth M. Murphy** Washington University School of Medicine

**William T. Newsome III** Stanford University School of Medicine

**Lee Ann Niswander** Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center

**Michael B. O'Connor** University of Minnesota Medical School,  
Minneapolis

**Michael E. O'Donnell** The Rockefeller University

**Nikola P. Pavletich** Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center

**Louis J. Ptacek** University of Utah School of Medicine

**Anna M. Pyle** Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons

**Tom A. Rapoport** Harvard Medical School

**Douglas C. Rees** California Institute of Technology

**James M. Roberts** Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center

**G. Shirleen Roeder** Yale University

**David B. Roth** Baylor College of Medicine

**Sylvia L. Sanders** Massachusetts Institute of Technology

**Erin M. Schuman** California Institute of Technology

**John D. Scott** Vollum Institute for Advanced Biomedical Research

**Amita Sehgal** University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine

**George M. Shaw** University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Medicine

**Val C. Sheffield** University of Iowa College of Medicine

**Gerald I. Shulman** Yale University School of Medicine

**Eugenia Spanopoulou** Mount Sinai School of Medicine

**Jonathan S. Stamler** Duke University Medical Center

**Jack Szostak** Massachusetts General Hospital

**Joseph S. Takahashi** Northwestern University

**Susan S. Taylor** University of California, San Diego

**Li-Hwei Tsai** Harvard Medical School

**Peter Walter** University of California, San Francisco

**Xiaodong Wang** The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas

**Eileen White** Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

**Morris F. White** Joslin Diabetes Center

**Eric F. Wieschaus** Princeton University

**Jerry L. Workman** Pennsylvania State University

**Hong Wu** University of California, Los Angeles, School of Medicine

**Tian Xu** Yale University School of Medicine

**Wayne M. Yokoyama** Washington University School of Medicine

**To the Top of the List...**