

JULY 25, 2006

## HHMI Appoints Josephine P. Briggs as Senior Scientific Officer

The Howard Hughes Medical Institute has appointed accomplished researcher and physician Josephine P. Briggs as a senior scientific officer. Briggs will work from the Institute's headquarters in Chevy Chase, Maryland, to support the research of HHMI investigators in more than 300 laboratories across the nation.

Briggs, 61, comes to HHMI from the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases. For the past nine years she oversaw extramural research programs for the institute's division of kidney, urologic, and hematologic diseases. Briggs has actively participated in trans-institute activities at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and played a leading role in the development of genomic resources for zebrafish, an important model organism for the study of development and disease. She served as co-chair of an NIH working group on translational research, and was responsible for implementing key elements of the NIH Roadmap aimed at facilitating the translation of basic discoveries into clinical applications.

Briggs received her A.B. cum laude in biology from Harvard-Radcliffe College and her M.D. from Harvard Medical School. Her residency training in internal medicine and nephrology was at Mount Sinai School of Medicine, following which she was a research fellow in the department of physiology at Yale University School of Medicine and research scientist at the University of Munich. Prior to moving to the NIH in 1997, Briggs was professor of internal medicine and physiology at the University of Michigan Medical School.

Briggs is an elected member of the American Association of Physicians and a recipient of the Vollhard Prize of the German Nephrological Society and the NIH Director's Award. Her research on the physiology of the kidney, which is at the interface of basic and clinical science, has resulted in more than 100 peer-reviewed publications and is important for understanding progressive renal disease, hypertension, and congestive heart failure.

We are delighted that Dr. Briggs will be joining us and bringing to HHMI science valuable perspective on opportunities in the area of translational and clinical medicine, said David A. Clayton, HHMI vice president and chief scientific officer.