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HHMI Appoints Edwin W. McCleskey as Scientific Officer

The Howard Hughes Medical Institute has appointed neuroscientist Edwin W. McCleskey as scientific officer. McCleskey 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.

McCleskey, 53, has been 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.

In 1983, McCleskey received his Ph.D. in physiology from the University of Washington. He then moved to Yale University School of Medicine, where he did postdoctoral training from 1984 to 1987. He was a faculty member at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis from 1987 to 1993, before he joined the Vollum Institute. McCleskey is a recipient of a Presidential Young Investigator Award from the National Science Foundation and the 2006 K. S. Cole Award in Membrane Biophysics from the Biophysical Society.

At HHMI, McCleskey will initially oversee the work of HHMI investigators at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, OHSU, Stanford University, University of California, Berkeley, University of California, Santa Cruz, University of Oregon and University of Washington. "We are delighted to have Ed's great enthusiasm and scientific expertise as part of our scientific team at headquarters," said David A. Clayton, HHMI vice president and chief scientific officer.