

**CIRM Scientific and Medical Research Funding Working Group
Biographical information of candidates nominated to serve as
Scientific Members of the Working Group**

Jane E. Johnson PhD

Jane Johnson is a professor and vice-chair in the Department of Neuroscience at the University of Texas (UT) Southwestern Medical Center, and a member of the Harold C. Simmons Comprehensive Cancer Center's Cancer and Development Scientific program. She received her BS in chemistry, and her PhD in biochemistry from the University of Washington, and joined the faculty at the UT Southwestern Medical Center after completing her postdoctoral studies at the California Institute of Technology.

Dr. Johnson's lab is focused on vertebrate nervous system development during the transition from proliferating neural stem cells to differentiating neurons and glia. Current projects concentrate on four main areas of research: regulation and function of *Ascl1* in embryonic neural development and cancer; regulation and function of *Ptf1a* in specification of inhibitory neurons in the dorsal spinal cord and cerebellum; regulation, function, and lineage analysis of bHLH defined neural progenitors in circuit formation in the dorsal spinal cord; and uncovering functions of the direct downstream targets of these neural bHLH factors in neural differentiation and neuronal sub-type specification.

Dr. Johnson has published widely in peer-reviewed journals, including *Genetics and Development*, *Development*, and *Neuron*. In 2011 she was honored by the University of Texas Postdoctoral Association with its Excellence in Postdoctoral Mentoring Award.

John S. Kuo, MD, PhD

John Kuo is assistant professor of neurological surgery and human oncology and director of the Comprehensive Brain Tumor Program at the University of Wisconsin (UW) Hospital and Clinics. At the UW Comprehensive Cancer Center, Dr. Kuo directs the multidisciplinary Brain Tumor Clinic, serves as chair of the CNS Tumors Group, and co-founded the Pituitary Tumor Clinic. He received his AB and MD from Harvard University, and a PhD in biology from MIT. In addition to his research, Dr. Kuo is a member of several UW graduate training programs, including those for neuroscience, cellular and molecular biology, and cellular and molecular pathology.

Dr. Kuo specializes in treating benign and malignant brain and spinal tumors (i.e., GBM, pituitary tumor, meningioma, astrocytoma, metastatic cancer to brain), with special expertise in stereotactic radiosurgery for tumors, vascular lesions, and trigeminal neuralgia. His laboratory focuses on understanding brain cancer stem cell biology to test and develop novel therapies in vitro and in vivo. Specifically, his lab has focused on improving GBM patient survival by selective imaging and targeting of infiltrative cancer cells and therapeutically resistant cancer stem cells.

Hesham Sadek, MD, PhD

Hesham Sadek is an assistant professor of internal medicine and a cardiologist at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center. He earned his medical degree from Ain Shams University in Cairo, Egypt, and completed his residency in internal medicine and a research fellowship in cardiology at University Hospitals of Cleveland. He received his PhD in physiology from Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine, and completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the Donald W. Reynolds Cardiovascular Clinical

Research Center at UT Southwestern. Dr. Sadek is licensed to practice medicine in the state of Texas, and is board certified in cardiology and internal medicine.

Dr. Sadek's research interests center on cardiac regeneration and stem cell metabolism. His laboratory has published on the methods to enhance the regenerative potential of the heart, the metabolic profile of progenitor cells, and how the microenvironment affects regenerative potential following injury.

Dr. Sadek has published widely in peer-reviewed journals, including *Science*, *Cell Stem Cell*, and *PNAS*. He is the recipient of the Gilead Sciences Research Scholars Program in Cardiovascular Disease, the Northwestern Cardiovascular Young Investigator Award, and the AHA Young Investigator Award.