



## Nominations for Appointment to the Grants Working Group (GWG)

### Reappointment of Scientific Members to the Grants Working Group

We are seeking the reappointment of the individuals listed in the table below. Their updated biographies follow. In accordance with the rules set forth by Proposition 71, reappointments should be staggered into thirds, each with a 2, 4, or 6-year term.

#### Proposed Reappointments to GWG

Last	First	Term	Expertise
Pera	Martin	6	Pluripotent Stem Cell Biology; Developmental Biology
Perlingeiro	Rita	4	Lineage-Specific Differentiation of Pluripotent Stem Cells
Russell	Steven	6	Diabetes Research
Simari	Robert	2	Cardiology; Stem Cell & Regenerative Medicine Research

#### **Martin Pera, PhD**

Martin Pera received his B.A. from the College of William and Mary and his Ph.D. from George Washington University, and he undertook postdoctoral training in the UK at the Institute of Cancer Research and the Imperial Cancer Research Fund. He held independent research positions at the Institute of Cancer Research and the Department of Zoology at Oxford University before joining Monash University in 1996. In 2006 he moved to Los Angeles as the Founding Director of the Eli and Edythe Broad Center for Regenerative Medicine and Stem Cell Research at the University of Southern California. He returned to Melbourne in 2011 to become Professor of Stem Cell Sciences at the University of Melbourne and Program Leader for Stem Cells Australia, the Australian Research Council Special Research Initiative in Stem Cell Sciences. He joined the Jackson Laboratory in 2017.

Dr. Pera's research focus is the cell biology of human pluripotent stem cells. His laboratory at Monash University was the second in the world to isolate embryonic stem cells from the human blastocyst, and the first to describe their differentiation into somatic cells *in vitro*. Currently his lab studies the regulation of self-renewal and pluripotency, heterogeneity in pluripotent stem cell populations, and neural specification of pluripotent stem cells. His early work on neural differentiation of human pluripotent stem cells helped lead to the development of a new treatment for macular degeneration, a common form of blindness. He has provided extensive advice to state, national, and international regulatory authorities on the scientific background of human stem cell research, and he has delivered hundreds of commentaries for print and electronic media on stem cell research, ethics, and regulatory policy. At the Jackson Laboratory, he uses human stem cells and mouse models to study the genetic basis of individual differences in the response of the central nervous system to injury.

#### **Rita Perlingeiro, PhD**

Dr. Rita Perlingeiro is the Lillehei Professor in Stem Cell and Regenerative Cardiovascular Medicine at the Lillehei Heart Institute. She received her BSc in Biochemistry and Pharmacy from the Federal

University of Santa Maria in Santa Maria-RS, Brazil and her MSc in Pharmacology and her PhD in Biological Sciences from the University of Campinas in Campinas-RS, Brazil. She completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research, Massachusetts Institute for Technology.

Dr. Perlingeiro's laboratory is interested in understanding the molecular mechanisms controlling lineage-specific differentiation of pluripotent stem cells, and applying this information to generate tissue-specific stem/progenitor cells endowed with *in vivo* regenerative potential. Much of her work is focused on muscular dystrophies.

Dr. Perlingeiro sits on the editorial boards for the *Journal of Stem Cell Research and Therapy* and *Stem Cell Reviews and Reports*; and has served on National Institutes of Health (NIH) Study Sections and other grants review committees. Dr. Perlingeiro is a member of several professional societies including the American Society of Gene and Cell Therapy, the International Society for Stem Cell Research, the American Society of Hematology, and the American Heart Association.

### **Steven J. Russell, MD, PhD**

Dr. Russell is an Assistant Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School and an Attending Physician at Massachusetts General Hospital Diabetes Research Center. He completed medical and doctoral (MD/PhD) training at University of Texas Southwestern Medical School and a residency in Internal Medicine and fellowship in Endocrinology at the Massachusetts General Hospital. He is board certified in Endocrinology, Diabetes & Metabolism.

Dr. Russell is the principal clinical investigator of a collaboration between Massachusetts General Hospital and Boston University to develop a wearable bionic pancreas systems for automated glycemic management in people with diabetes mellitus. Dr. Russell's other projects include evaluation of continuous glucose monitoring technology, methods for automated management of glucose in hospitalized patients, investigations of methods to improve insulin pharmacokinetics, investigations of stable formulations of glucagon, and development of a device for minimally invasive continuous insulin monitoring.

Dr. Russell's research is supported by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), The Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust, the Banting Foundation, the American Diabetes Association, and the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.

### **Robert D. Simari, MD**

Robert D. Simari is the Franklin E. Murphy Professor in Cardiology. Dr. Simari served as Executive Vice Chancellor for the University of Kansas Medical Center from January 2018 through August of 2019 and served as executive dean from March 2014 through August 2019. A 1986 alumnus of the KU School of Medicine, Dr. Simari has served as executive dean providing oversight and leadership to all three KU School of Medicine campuses - Kansas City, Wichita and Salina. Prior to joining KU, Dr. Simari served as vice chair for the Division of Cardiovascular Diseases and co-principal investigator of the Center for Translational Science Activities at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN. where he also served as a physician scientist, cardiologist and professor of medicine at the Mayo Clinic College of Medicine. While at the Mayo Clinic, his research laboratory made fundamental discoveries in the areas of thrombosis and identification of vascular stem cells, and for 10 years he led the National Heart, Blood and Lung Institute-funded Cardiovascular Cell Therapy Research Network, which performs early phase clinical trials in cardiovascular cell therapy. In addition, he continues his cardiology practice at The University of Kansas Health System.

Dr. Simari earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Notre Dame, and his medical degree from the University of Kansas. Following medical school, he completed his residency at Beth Israel Hospital in Boston, then served fellowships in cardiovascular disease and interventional cardiology at the Mayo Clinic. Following his clinical training he was a postdoctoral research fellow at the University of Michigan. Dr. Simari is a member of the American Society of Clinical Investigation and has served as President of the Association of University Cardiologists.