



## Hamon Center for Regenerative Science Formed

May 7, 2014

Dear Colleagues:

We are very pleased to announce the formation of the Hamon Center for Regenerative Science and Medicine. The new center will be led by Dr. Eric Olson, Chairman of the Department of Molecular Biology.

This new Center was made possible by a \$10 million endowment gift from the Hamon Foundation, and it is being established to promote discoveries that will provide new approaches to healing and regeneration, including advances in stem cell biology, tissue engineering, and organ fabrication.

Under Dr. Olson's leadership, the Hamon Center will both foster collaborative interactions among existing faculty and, with its appointing authority, recruit junior and senior new faculty. In addition, the Center will support new core facilities, expanded biobank activities, and the development of new training and educational activities related to regenerative science and medicine.

Dr. Olson has been a member of the UT Southwestern community since he was recruited in 1995 to be the founding Chair of our Department of Molecular Biology. He holds the Annie and Willie Nelson Professorship in Stem Cell Research, the Pogue Distinguished Chair in Research on Cardiac Birth Defects, and the Robert A. Welch Distinguished Chair in Science.

Dr. Olson's work has produced new insights into heart development and regeneration. His work has illuminated a detailed genetic model for heart development that provides a framework for how these genes function in normal and abnormal heart development. These advances provide a basis for the development of new approaches to the treatment and prevention of cardiac defects in infants and cardiac repair in adults, including several therapeutics already in development.

Dr. Olson's work has been widely recognized by numerous awards and honors, including election to the National Academy of Sciences, the Institute of Medicine, and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. More recently, he received the Passano Award in 2012, the Research Achievement Award from the International Society for Heart Research in 2013, and also in 2013, the March of Dimes Prize in Developmental Biology.

We are delighted to be able to announce this very generous gift from the Hamon Foundation, the establishment of the Hamon Center for Regenerative Science and Medicine, and this important new role for Dr. Eric Olson. We look forward to the emergence of the Hamon Center as a leading source of transformative insights into regenerative science and medicine.

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