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**TO: All Faculty, Staff, Trainees, and Students**

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### **Icahn Genomics Institute Leadership Update and Refocus**

We are pleased to announce that Brian Brown, PhD, has been appointed the Director for the Icahn Genomics Institute at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. His strategic vision will refocus the Institute's work on gene and cell therapy moving forward.

#### **Brian Brown, PhD, Appointed Director**

Brian Brown, PhD, is Professor of Genetics and Genomic Sciences and Associate Director of the Precision Immunology Institute (PrIISM) at Icahn Mount Sinai.



Dr. Brown, who was named interim leader of the Institute last year, is a trailblazer in the field of gene therapy. He has invented new ways to target vectors and viruses to particular cell types and tissues that are now being evaluated in the clinic for cancer treatments.

His current research focuses on identifying the molecular and cellular factors that control tumor immunity and developing therapeutic strategies to direct the immune system to eliminate cancer.

In addition to a major focus on technology and therapeutic development, Dr. Brown's research includes identification of transcriptional programs that regulate immune cell function, discovery of a pathway controlling innate response to pathogen-associated nucleic acids, discoveries on how T cells interact with stem cells of the gut, skin, breast, ovary, and muscle, and many other topics. You can see more about his research background [here](#).

As a member of the Immunological Genome Project, a collaborative group of immunology and computational biology labs, he is helping carry out work to generate a comprehensive molecular and cellular atlas of the immune system.

Dr. Brown did his doctoral and postdoctoral training in the field of gene therapy and genetic engineering, completing his graduate studies at Queen's University in Canada and his fellowship at the Telethon Institute for Gene Therapy in Milan, Italy. He joined the faculty of Mount Sinai in 2008 and was promoted to full Professor with tenure in 2018.

### **Refocusing of the Icahn Genomics Institute**

Moving forward, the Icahn Genomics Institute will provide a formal nexus for Mount Sinai's pioneering research and medical practice in gene and cell therapy and nucleic acid-based drugs.

Originally focusing on genomics and multiscale biology, over time the Institute's focus shifted to data science and genomic technology. Now, to take advantage

of emerging opportunities and capabilities, the new focus on gene and cell therapy will position Icahn Mount Sinai for breakthrough discoveries in this field.

The Icahn Genomics Institute will bring together experts from a range of disciplines and scientific focuses, including gene and cell engineering, RNA therapeutics, viral vectors and oncolytics, microbiotics, and regenerative medicine, with the goal of improved treatments for cancer, infectious disease, inherited genetic disorders, neurodegeneration, heart disease, and other conditions. The Institute will also continue to be home to investigators using omics approaches and data science to identify disease factors that can be targeted for treatment by new RNA and DNA therapeutics.

The past decade has seen a revolution and realization of gene-, cell- and nucleic acid-based therapies that includes highly effective treatments for many different diseases, the development of CRISPR gene-editing tools and new methods of vaccination based on mRNA and adenoviral vectors that are helping to end the global COVID-19 pandemic. Mount Sinai and the Icahn Genomics Institute will further lead this important new area of medicine into the future and bring better treatments to our patients.

We encourage you to contact [Dr. Brown](#) to discuss opportunities for collaborating with the Institute's exciting new focus.

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