Director of the Gladstone Institute of Cardiovascular Disease Elected to the National Academy of Sciences’ Institute of Medicine

_Honor recognizes researchers and physicians who have made significant contributions to the field of medical science_

SAN FRANCISCO, CA—October 20, 2014—Deepak Srivastava, MD, the Director of the Gladstone Institute of Cardiovascular Disease and Director of the Roddenberry Center for Stem Cell Biology and Medicine, has been elected to the National Academy of Sciences’ Institute of Medicine (IOM).

The IOM serves as both an honorific society and an advisory organization, providing guidance to the government and private sector on matters of healthcare and medicine. Election to the Institute is considered to be one of the highest honors in medical science, identifying individuals who have made major contributions to the field.

“I am honored to be named to this prestigious institution and pleased that this election recognizes the dedication and creativity of the team of scientists I have had the privilege to work with over the last two decades,” said Dr. Srivastava, who is also a Professor of Pediatrics and Biochemistry & Biophysics at the University of California, San Francisco.

Gladstone President R. Sanders “Sandy” Williams, MD congratulated Dr. Srivastava on the election, saying, “Deepak’s accomplishments in cardiovascular research are exceptional. This acknowledgment of his professional achievements and commitment to service is very much deserved.” Dr. Srivastava joins Dr. Williams, President Emeritus Robert Mahley, MD, PhD, and Director of the Gladstone Institute of Virology and Immunology Warner Greene, MD, PhD, as members of the IOM.

With a background in pediatric cardiology, Dr. Srivastava has led the charge on discovering which genes are essential for the formation of the heart from stem cells in the womb, and which ones are to blame when this process goes wrong in children with cardiac defects. He was also the first to describe the role of tiny molecules in the heart—called microRNAs—which carefully titrate levels of gene activity to control the fate of cells. Dr. Srivastava showed that when cells in the heart get confused about their fate it can result in disease, like when cells in the valve start behaving like bone cells and deposit calcium—a leading cause of heart disease.

He has most recently used the knowledge of how a heart is built in an embryo to create beating heart muscle cells from connective tissue in adult animals, effectively regenerating healthy muscle cells from scar tissue after a heart attack. This research could one day help restore heart function in the over 23 million people who suffer from heart failure worldwide.
Before joining Gladstone in 2005, Dr. Srivastava was a professor in the Departments of Pediatrics and Molecular Biology at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas.

Dr. Srivastava’s previous honors and awards include election to the American Society for Clinical Investigation, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

About the Institute of Medicine

The Institute of Medicine is an independent, nonprofit organization that works outside of government to provide unbiased and authoritative advice to decision makers and the public. Established in 1970, the Institute of Medicine is the health arm of the National Academy of Sciences.

About the Gladstone Institutes

To ensure our work does the greatest good, the Gladstone Institutes focus on conditions with profound medical, economic, and social impact—unsolved diseases of the brain, the heart, and the immune system. Affiliated with the University of California, San Francisco, Gladstone is an independent, nonprofit life science research organization that uses visionary science and technology to overcome disease.

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