

2008-11-14 OSC NEWS: Joel Saltz has joined Emory University's Woodruff Health Sciences Center (GenomeWeb News)

PMC Taps Leavitt for Leadership Award, Gerstel Nabs CEO Spot at Compugen, Corn Joins Quinterix SAB, and Others

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By [a GenomeWeb staff reporter](#)

NEW YORK (GenomeWeb News) - The Personalized Medicine Coalition has awarded its Leadership in Personalized Medicine Award to Michael Leavitt, secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services.

Leavitt has served as HHS secretary since January 2005. Prior to that, he headed the Environmental Protection Agency and was elected three times as the Governor of Utah.

Leavitt "has provided extraordinary leadership in the recognition of the importance of personalized medicine in health care," Harvard Medical School's Raju Kucherlapati said in a statement issued by the PMC.

Edward Abrahams, executive director of the PMC, said that Leavitt's leadership "raised the level of awareness about the promise of personalized medicine to heights it would not have reached otherwise."

Compugen has appointed Martin Gerstel as president and CEO, effective Jan. 1, 2009.

Gerstel, who has been chairman of the company since 1997, will take the reins from Alex Kotzer, who will remain a director of the company.

Gerstel previously was co-chairman and CEO of Alza, a member of the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America, and he is a director of Evogene, Itamar Medical, the Weizmann Institute of Science, the Hebrew University, and other companies and organizations.

Quinterix Corporation has appointed Robert Corn to its scientific advisory board. Corn is a professor in chemistry and biomedical engineering at the University of California, Irvine, where he focuses on developing new methods for detecting binding of biomolecules to surfaces and chemical modification strategies to control specific and non-specific absorption of polymers to a variety of surfaces.

Lana Skirboll, director of the National Institutes of Health's Office of Science Policy, has been named acting director of a reorganized Division of Program Coordination, Planning, and Strategic Initiatives.

Amy Patterson will serve as acting director of the science policy office.

Alan Krensky will leave his spot as head of the former Office of Portfolio Analysis and Strategic Initiatives, which is being subsumed by DPCPSI, and will go back to work at the National Cancer Institute, while serving as a senior advisor to the deputy director of NIH.

Joel Saltz has joined Emory University's Woodruff Health Sciences Center as the Georgia Research Alliance Eminent Scholar in Biomedical Informatics.

Saltz is director of Emory's Center for Comprehensive Informatics and also serves as Emory Healthcare's chief medical information officer.

Saltz formerly was chair of the Department of Biomedical Informatics and a senior fellow at the Ohio Supercomputer Center at Ohio State University. He also has worked with the National Cancer Institute's Cancer Biomedical Informatics Grid.

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