

For Immediate Release

September 23, 2008

Pioneer Valley Life Sciences Institute Adds Researcher to Its Springfield Staff

Nagendra Yadava, Ph.D. has joined PVLSI's staff of principal investigators and its Center of Excellence in Apoptosis Research (CEAR). He will hold the title of scientist and be based in the Institute's Springfield laboratory. Prior to his appointment, Dr. Yadava was staff scientist at the Buck Institute for Age Research in Novato, California. At PVLSI he will continue his work on mitochondria, key organelles in cells that stand at the intersection of energy metabolism and cell death. His work on mitochondrial dysfunction provides insights into a number of disorders including brain cell death in neurodegenerative diseases like Parkinson's and other age-associated diseases, particularly diabetes. In addition, Dr. Yadava's work includes the development of state-of-the-art experimental approaches and methods to enhance the capabilities of his team as well as those of scientists studying mitochondrial physiology and biogenesis worldwide.

Dr. Yadava notes, "I am very excited to join PVLSI. Its collaborative approach, including the prospect of engaging UMass Amherst and Baystate Medical Center scientists and clinicians, provides an outstanding research environment that affords opportunities to make fundamental scientific discoveries and to apply that new knowledge to improve human health."

PVLSI science director Dr. Lawrence Schwartz observes, "We are very pleased to welcome Dr. Yadava to our team. His scientific interests and approach to research are a remarkable fit with PVLSI's commitment to both apoptosis (cell death) and diabetes research. We look forward to his participation in CEAR as well as our endocrine working group. "

The Center of Excellence in Apoptosis Research is part of the Pioneer Valley Life Sciences Institute. CEAR's membership includes more than 45 researchers from the Institute, Baystate Medical Center, and UMass Amherst. Apoptosis, or programmed cell death, is a genetic program resident in all of our cells that allows the body to effectively dispose of defective or surplus cells. Aberrations in apoptosis have been estimated to play a role in approximately 70% of human disease including cancer, autoimmune disorders, and cardiovascular disease. The John Adams Innovation Institute of the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative supports CEAR's innovative programs.

About the Pioneer Valley Life Sciences Institute (PVLSI)

PVLSI was created in 2002 as a joint venture of Baystate Medical Center and the University of Massachusetts Amherst with the dual missions of biomedical research and economic development. Drawing on each of the founders as well as its own researchers, the Institute brings together physicians, scientists, and engineers to create interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary teams focused on the molecular mechanisms of disease and the development of new diagnostic and therapeutic tools. For more information, go to www.pvlsi.org.

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