

May 20, 2024

Salk Institute Appointments Committee
Tanya Sharpe and Sam Pfaff, Co-Chairs

Dear Tanya and Sam,

Re: Reappointments of Ian Wilson and James Williamson as Adjunct Professors

We are in full support of the reappointments of Drs. Ian Wilson and Jamie Williamson, two of the world leaders in structural biology.

Dr. Wilson is the Hansen Professor of Structural Biology at the Scripps Research and a world-renowned expert in using protein crystallography to define antibody structures, most recently reporting the structures of several neutralizing monoclonal antibodies against the SARS-CoV2 virus, establishing exactly where their binding sites map on the surface of the viral spike protein. He is currently collaborating with Dmitry Lyumkis and Tony Hunter on a project related to the antibody recognition of phosphohistidine protein modifications, and they have recently submitted a paper where they used antibody engineering to increase the affinity of an anti-phosphohistidine monoclonal antibody 10-fold, making it a more useful community reagent.

Dr. Williamson is Professor of Chemistry and Integrative Structural & Computational Biology at Scripps Research. His research program involves understanding the structural role of RNA in mediating its many biological functions. He was elected to the NAS in 2022. His fruitful collaborations with Dmitry Lyumkis have resulted in several publications, most recently an article in *Nature Communications* entitled "[Assembly landscape for the bacterial large ribosomal subunit](https://www.biorxiv.org/content/10.1101/2024.04.10.588894v1)," and another in submission: <https://www.biorxiv.org/content/10.1101/2024.04.10.588894v1>.

With the continued success of Dmitry Lyumkis' research program, our utilization of cryo-EM technologies has increased. Currently, Salk has a contract with Scripps Research to allow our faculty the use of their cryo-EM facilities. Drs. Wilson and Williamson continue to facilitate the discussions around our continued ability to use the Scripps Research facilities, and for this reason their reappointment as adjunct faculty is vital. They have both also committed to giving a lecture to the Salk community.

Thank you for your consideration of these two reappointments. Attached are their updated CVs and Service/Contribution Forms.

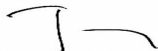
Sincerely,



Rusty Gage



Ron Evans



Tony Hunter



Joe Noel

Salk Adjunct Service/Contributions Form

Name:

Appointment Start Date:

Sponsors:

To be eligible for appointment and reappointment in the Adjunct series, appointees are expected to be engaged in **at least two** Institute-related activities outlined below. If you are being considered for your first Adjunct Professor appointment, provide information about your plans to engage in the Salk community and select any of the activities you would be interested in below. If you are being considered for reappointment, select your ongoing activities and give a brief summary of your engagement in each activity during the past appointment period. Also provide a summary of your plans to engage in the Salk activities during the next appointment period.

Salk Activities (list the course/seminar titles, committees, and student names if known)

** Please note research collaborations with a Salk Faculty sponsor(s) do not qualify as Institute-related activities expected for an Adjunct position*

- ☐ Giving Seminars, such as those hosted by Sponsors or by the Institute
- ☐ Teaching in Salk-organized courses
- ☐ Serving on UCSD Student Review committees and/or Thesis Committees in Salk Labs
- ☐ Reviewing Postdoctoral and other Internal Grants
- ☐ Participating in Salk's outreach and educational efforts to recruit underrepresented minority student applicants

- ☐ Consulting on Salk scientific initiatives or multi-PI grants
- ☐ Serving on Faculty Review Committees
- ☐ Promoting award and nomination opportunities for Salk Faculty
- ☐ Organizing or participating on Salk Meetings or Conferences
- ☐ Other

Salk Service Summary & Plans: Describe your plans to engage in the activities marked above during the next appointment period (i.e.: Salk Course or Seminar Titles, names of Student or Faculty review committee, description of contributions to grants, etc. if unable to fit above). If you are being considered for reappointment, also describe your engagement in the Salk activities during the last appointment period. You may attach a supplemental letter with these activities as needed.

James Russell Williamson

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Email: jrwill@scripps.edu

Assistant: Julia Polay
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Birthdate: January 3rd, 1960, Weymouth, MA

Education:

1981-1988 Doctor of Philosophy in Organic Chemistry, Stanford University, Stanford, CA
 Advisor: Dr. Steven G. Boxer

1977-81 Bachelor of Science in Chemistry, Mount Union College, Alliance, OH

Administrative Experience:

The Scripps Research Institute, La Jolla, CA

2017-2022 Executive Vice President, Research and Academic Affairs
2015-2017 Vice President, Academic Affairs
2008-2017 Dean, Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies
2001-2008 Associate Dean, Graduate Studies

Research Experience:

The Scripps Research Institute, La Jolla, CA

1997 – present Professor, Department of Integrative, Structural and Computational Biology
2018 – present Adjunct Professor, Salk Institute, La Jolla, CA

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA

1995-1997 Associate Professor, Department of Chemistry
1990-1995 Assistant Professor, Department of Chemistry

University of Colorado, Boulder, CO

1988-1990 Postdoctoral Fellow, Laboratory of Dr. Thomas R. Cech
 Chemical studies on the in vitro structure of telomeric oligonucleotides.

Stanford University, Stanford, CA

1983-1988 Graduate Research Assistant, Laboratory of Dr. Steven G. Boxer
 NMR studies on synthetic DNA Hairpins.
1981-1983 Graduate Research Assistant, Laboratory of Dr. Michael C. Pirrung
 Total synthesis of the sesquiterpene pentalenolactone.

Battelle Memorial Institute, Columbus, OH

1980 Research Assistant, Laboratory of Dr. Allison Fentiman

Awards and Honors:

National Academy of Sciences, 2022
American Academy of Arts and Sciences, 2010
Camille Dreyfus Teacher-Scholar Award, 1995
Alfred P. Sloan Fellow, 1995-1997
Rita Allen Scholar Award, 1994-1997
Searle Scholar Award, 1991-1994
Pfizer-Laubach Career Development Professorship, 1991-1994
Postdoctoral Fellowship awarded by The Jane Coffin Childs Memorial Fund for Medical Research, 1988-1990
Graduation with Honors in Chemistry and General Honors, 1981
Outstanding Senior Chemistry Major, 1981
Alpha Lambda Delta Chemistry Honorary, 1980
Outstanding Junior Chemistry Major, 1980

Outside Professional Activities:

Professional Societies:

American Chemical Society
Biophysical Society
The RNA Society
American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

Editorial Boards:

Associate Editor, *Annual Review of Biophysics and Biomolecular Structure*, 2003-2013
Board of Editors, *ACS Chemical Biology*, 2006-2015
BMC-Biology, 2009-present
Biopolymers, 2008-present
Structure, 2004-present
RNA, 1997-2018
Chemistry and Biology/ Cell Chemical Biology, 1994-2020
Molecular Cell, 2003-2015
Journal of Magnetic Resonance, 2000-2003
Folding and Design, 1996-1999

Grant Review Boards:

National Institutes of Health, BBCA/MSFB Study Section Member, 2000-2005
American Cancer Society, Panel Member, 1996-2000
American Cancer Society, Nucleic Acids and Protein Section, *ad hoc* Member, 1995 & 1996

Advisory Boards:

Starr Cancer Consortium, 2011-present
Jane Coffin Childs Memorial Fund for Medical Research, 1999-2007
Council of the RNA Society, 1999-2000

Industrial Affiliations:

Scientific Advisory Board, Rectify Pharmaceuticals, 2021-present
Scientific Advisory Board, Beryllium Inc, 2015-2017
Founder, Navis Biosciences, 2011-2012
Consultant, Illumina, Inc, 2010-2011
Director, RGo Biosciences, LLC 2008-2011
Consultant, Ambit Biosciences, 2007-2008
Consultant, Vertex Pharmaceuticals, 2006-2007
Founder, Cassia, LLC 2004-present
Scientific Advisory Board, Ribonovix, 2004-2007

Scientific Advisory Board, Nucleonics, Inc, 2002-2005
Scientific Advisory Board, Genformatics, Inc, 2001-2002
Consultant, ScriptGen Pharmaceuticals, 1992-2000

Research Interests:

Ribosome assembly, RNA-protein interactions, Virus assembly, RNA modifications, Quantitative Proteomic studies of bacterial physiology, Multidisciplinary biophysics approaches to assembly dynamics: Mass spectrometry, Electron microscopy, fluorescence, X-ray crystallography, NMR.

Research Publications

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/myncbi/james.williamson.1/bibliography/public/>

<https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=tuzMchcAAAAJ&hl=en&oi=ao>

H-index = 79 (Google-scholar)

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Sheng K, Li N, Rabuck-Gibbons JN, Dong X, Lyumkis D, Williamson JR. Assembly landscape for the bacterial large ribosomal subunit. *Nat Commun.* 14, 5220, 2023.

Dong X, Doerfel LK, Sheng K, Rabuck-Gibbons JN, Popova AM, Lyumkis D, Williamson JR. Near-physiological in vitro assembly of 50S ribosomes involves parallel pathways. *Nucleic Acids Res.* 51, 2862-2876, 2023.

Gu, W, Müller, AL, Deutzmann, JS, Williamson, JR, Spormann, AM, Growth rate-dependent coordination of catabolism and anabolism in the archaeon *Methanococcus maripaludis* under phosphate limitation. *The ISME Journal*, 1-7, 2022.

D'Ascenzo, L, Popova, AM, Abernathy, S, Sheng, K, Limbach, PA, Williamson, JR, Pytheas: a software package for the automated analysis of RNA sequences and modifications via tandem mass spectrometry. *Nature Communications* 13 (1), 1-12, 2, 2022.

Chawla, R, Klupt, S, Patsalo, V, Williamson, JR, Racki, LR. The Histone H1-like protein AlgP facilitates even spacing of polyphosphate granules in *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*. *Mbio*, e02463-21, 1, 2022.

Rabuck-Gibbons, Lyumkis, D, Williamson, JR. Quantitative mining of compositional heterogeneity in cryo-EM datasets of ribosome assembly intermediates. *Structure* 30 (4), 498-509. e4 1, 2022.

Müller, AL, Gu, W, Patsalo, V, Deutzmann. JS, Williamson, JR, Spormann, AM. An alternative resource allocation strategy in the chemolithoautotrophic archaeon *Methanococcus maripaludis*. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 118 (16), e2025854118, 8, 2021.

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Rabuck-Gibbons JN, Popova AM, Greene EM, Cervantes CF, Lyumkis D, Williamson JR. SrmB Rescues Trapped Ribosome Assembly Intermediates. *J Mol Biol*. 2020 Feb 14;432(4):978-990. doi: 10.1016/j.jmb.2019.12.013. Epub 2019 Dec 23. PubMed PMID: 31877323; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC7106940.

Duss O, Stepanyuk GA, Puglisi JD, Williamson JR. Transient Protein-RNA Interactions Guide Nascent Ribosomal RNA Folding. *Cell*. 2019 Nov 27;179(6):1357-1369.e16. doi: 10.1016/j.cell.2019.10.035. Epub 2019 Nov 21. PubMed PMID: 31761533; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC7006226.

Razi A, Davis JH, Hao Y, Jahagirdar D, Thurlow B, Basu K, Jain N, Gomez-Blanco J, Britton RA, Vargas J, Guarné A, Woodson SA, Williamson JR, Ortega J. Role of Era in assembly and homeostasis of the ribosomal small subunit. *Nucleic Acids Res*. 2019 Sep 5;47(15):8301-8317. doi: 10.1093/nar/gkz571. PubMed PMID: 31265110; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC6736133

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Duss O, Stepanyuk GA, Grot A, O'Leary SE, Puglisi JD, Williamson JR. Real-time assembly of ribonucleoprotein complexes on nascent RNA transcripts. *Nat Commun*. 2018 Nov 30;9(1):5087. doi: 10.1038/s41467-018-07423-3. PubMed PMID: 30504830; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC6269517.

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Campbell ZT, Menichelli E, Friend K, Wu J, Kimble J, et al. Identification of a conserved interface between PUF and CPEB proteins. *J Biol Chem*. 2012 May 25;287(22):18854-62. PubMed PMID: 22496444; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC3365739.

Ridgeway WK, Millar DP, Williamson JR. The spectroscopic basis of fluorescence triple correlation spectroscopy. *J Phys Chem B*. 2012 Feb 16;116(6):1908-19. PubMed PMID: 22229664; NIHMSID: NIHMS356094; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC3293655.

Kerkow DE, Carmel AB, Menichelli E, Ambrus G, Hills RD Jr, et al. The structure of the NXF2/NXT1 heterodimeric complex reveals the combined specificity and versatility of the NTF2-like fold. *J Mol Biol*. 2012 Jan 27;415(4):649-65. PubMed PMID: 22123199; NIHMSID: NIHMS340900; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC3265607.

Menichelli E, Edgcomb SP, Recht MI, Williamson JR. The structure of *Aquifex aeolicus* ribosomal protein S8 reveals a unique subdomain that contributes to an extremely tight association with 16S rRNA. *J Mol Biol*. 2012 Jan 20;415(3):489-502. PubMed PMID: 22079365; NIHMSID: NIHMS344317; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC3259246.

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Shoji S, Dambacher CM, Shajani Z, Williamson JR, Schultz PG. Systematic chromosomal deletion of bacterial ribosomal protein genes. *J Mol Biol*. 2011 Nov 4;413(4):751-61. PubMed PMID: 21945294; NIHMSID: NIHMS325408; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC3694390.

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