

We are pleased to announce that Michael Olivier, PhD, has been recruited to lead the Center for Precision Medicine at Wake Forest School of Medicine and serve as a Professor in the Department of Internal Medicine, Section on Molecular Medicine. The new Center expands omics-related capabilities at Wake Forest and complements the expertise in precision medicine in the Comprehensive Cancer Center and other research centers of excellence.



Dr. Olivier joins us from Texas Biomedical Research Institute in San Antonio, Tex., and is bringing a team of investigators with him, including the other leaders of the Center: Laura Cox, PhD, Associate Director, and Reto Asmis, PhD, Associate Director for Education. Drs. Cox and Asmis have also been appointed Professors of Internal Medicine, Section on Molecular Medicine.

Previously Chair of the Department of Genetics at Texas Biomed, Dr. Olivier is a leading expert in the integrated application of genomics, proteomics and metabolomics technologies to the study of human metabolic disorders, with a special emphasis on obesity, lipid disorders and the metabolic and cardiovascular co-morbidities. Before joining Texas Biomed, Dr. Olivier was Professor of Physiology at the Medical College of Wisconsin in Milwaukee, WI, where he directed the Wisconsin Center of Excellence in Genomics Science and was Co-Director of the TOPS Center of Obesity and Metabolic Research.

Dr. Olivier received his MS in Chemistry at the University of Cologne in Germany (1993) and his PhD in Physiology and Molecular Genetics at Cornell University (1997).

Dr. Cox was Vice Chair Department of Genetics at Texas Biomed and a Core Scientist and Director of the Genomics Core at the Southwest National Primate Research Center. A leading expert in cardiovascular genetics, her research has focused on the identification and characterization of genetic and epigenetic variation and variation in genetic networks that influence cardiovascular disease risk.

Dr. Asmis is a leading expert in the study of macrophage biology and its role in tissue and metabolic homeostasis, with special emphasis on the role in human vascular diseases, obesity and diabetic complications. His expertise includes mouse genetics, redox biology and the development new molecular imaging reagents targeting tissue macrophages for the non-invasive detection and monitoring of atherosclerosis and aneurysms.

Other faculty from Texas who will be joining us over the next few weeks have unique research expertise that will complement existing expertise at Wake Forest School of Medicine and help strengthen ongoing research programs. They include Yong Joo Ahn, MD (cardiovascular biology), Jeannie Chan, PhD (cardiovascular genomics), Hector Guillen, PhD (cancer genetics, genome biology), Biswa Misra, PhD (metabolomics, integrated omics), Ellen Quillen (statistical genetics, bone aging), Kim Reeves, PhD (genomics, metagenomics), and Tony Reeves, PhD (biochemistry, microbial proteogenomics).

Over the past few months, Dr. Olivier has been meeting with Medical Center stakeholders – Center Directors, Department Chairs and Faculty – to learn about ongoing research, discuss expectations for the center and explore collaborative efforts.

Discussions include how best to support and facilitate state-of-the-art research approaches to study clinically relevant human diseases, implement education and training programs, and explore how these discoveries can be effectively translated into useful clinical applications to advance patient care.

Please join us in welcoming Dr. Olivier and his team as they further enhance our strengths in the area of precision medicine.

To learn more about the center and the leadership, view [Dr. Olivier's presentation on the Center for Precision Medicine.](#)