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## **ALBERT AND MARY LASKER FOUNDATION WELCOMES ERIN K. O'SHEA TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

*(New York, March 13, 2018)*— The Albert and Mary Lasker Foundation today announced the addition of Erin K. O'Shea, Ph.D. to the Lasker Foundation Board of Directors. Dr. O'Shea, a distinguished scientist and president of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI), brings a wealth of expertise in gene regulation, signal transduction, and systems biology.

"We are delighted to welcome Erin O'Shea to the Lasker Foundation Board," said Lasker Board Chair Willard J. Overlock, Jr. "Her exceptional accomplishments in biomedical research and in science education position Dr. O'Shea to make important contributions to the Lasker organization."

"Dr. O'Shea's work in the field of systems biology, including her fascinating research of circadian clocks, is inspirational and we look forward to benefiting from her leadership," said Claire Pomeroy, President of the Albert and Mary Lasker Foundation.

Dr. O'Shea was appointed as HHMI's sixth president in September 2016. She is the first woman to head the Institute. Under her leadership, HHMI has established key priorities for its work in discovery science and science education. She is responsible for new efforts at HHMI to increase diversity in science and improve the academic ecosystem.

An HHMI investigator since 2000, Dr. O'Shea maintains a laboratory at HHMI's Janelia Research Campus. Prior to joining HHMI in 2013 as Vice President and Chief Scientific Officer, she served on the faculties of Harvard University and the University of California, San Francisco. She is a member of the National Academy of Sciences and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Dr. O'Shea holds a bachelor's degree in biochemistry from Smith College and a Ph.D. in chemistry from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

**About the Foundation:** The Lasker Foundation seeks to increase support for biomedical research by celebrating the power of biomedical science to save and improve human lives. Through its internationally renowned Lasker Awards, educational initiatives, and public advocacy, the Foundation recognizes the most important achievements in science and public service, supports and encourages the scientific leaders of tomorrow, and raises awareness of the ever-present need for research funding. Established in 1942 by Albert and Mary Lasker, the Foundation is committed to inspiring robust and sustained support for biomedical research, fueled by Mary Lasker's call to action: "If you think research is expensive, try disease!"

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