Alfred P. Sloan Foundation Elects New Trustee

Princeton molecular biologist Bonnie Bassler joins the board effective Sept. 1, 2014

(New York, NY) The Alfred P. Sloan Foundation Board of Trustees announces the election of Princeton molecular biology Professor Bonnie L. Bassler to the board as a trustee. Dr. Bassler is also a Howard Hughes Medical Institute Investigator and a member of both the National Academy of Sciences and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

“Dr. Bassler is a world-class scientist who is uniquely qualified to help the Foundation in our work to support high-quality research,” says Sandra O. Moose, Chair of the Sloan Foundation Board of Trustees. “We are honored that she is bringing her expertise and enthusiasm to the Foundation.”

After receiving her Ph.D. in biochemistry from Johns Hopkins University, Dr. Bonnie Bassler joined the Princeton faculty in 1994. The research in her laboratory focuses on the molecular mechanisms that bacteria use for intercellular communication, a process called quorum sensing. Bassler’s research is paving the way to the development of novel therapies for combating bacteria by disrupting quorum-sensing-mediated communication.

“I share the Sloan Foundation’s enthusiasm for diversity in science and I am excited to be working with an organization that has such a unique focus on original research,” says Dr. Bassler. “I look forward to helping the Board fund projects that can lead to a better world and am honored to be among such a passionate group of professionals.”

Dr. Bassler is the Chair of the Department of Molecular Biology. She was the president of the American Society for Microbiology, the world’s largest life sciences organization, and she chaired the American Academy of Microbiology Board of Governors. She is a member of the National Science Board, which oversees the National Science Foundation and prioritizes the nation’s research and educational priorities in science, math and engineering.

Among her many accolades, Dr. Bassler received a MacArthur Foundation fellowship in 2002, and she is the 2009 recipient of the Wiley Prize in Biomedical Science for her paradigm-changing scientific research. She is the 2011 recipient of the National Academies’ Richard Lounsbery Award. She is the 2012 UNESCO-L’Oreal Woman in Science for North America. In 2012, Bassler was also elected to the Royal Society and to the American Philosophical Society.

The Alfred P. Sloan Foundation is a philanthropic, not-for-profit grant making institution based in New York City. Established in 1934 by Alfred Pritchard Sloan Jr., then-President and Chief Executive Officer of the General Motors Corporation, the Foundation makes grants in support of original research and education in science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and economic performance. www.sloan.org

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