Thanks, Sid!!
Dear friends and colleagues,

We recently said thank you, but fortunately not goodbye to Sid Golub, PhD, who retired from his position as director of the Sue & Bill Gross Stem Cell Research Center. Even as Sid closed the book on a productive four years in the position, he agreed to take on a new challenge.

As a respected leader in stem cell ethics and policy, the founding Chair of the human Stem Cell Research Oversight Committee at UCI, and the Edward A. Dickson Emeritus Professor, Sid will promote examination and discussion of ethical principles in basic and translational research across the campus, and monitor how California compares to other states on stem cell policy.

Under Sid's leadership, and with support from you, the Sue & Bill Gross Stem Cell Research Center has recorded achievements on many fronts. To mention a few:

- The Seed Grant Program, which supports early exploration of novel research ideas, funded 11 promising studies and produced research findings that have attracted $6.2 million in support for further investigation.
- Our local community learned about stem cells through dozens of facility tours, periodic lectures and annual events celebrating Stem Cell Awareness Day.
- A young Stem Cells Offer Hope Society flourished, hosting annual events attended by many of you and raising vital funds to advance critical research into cures for diabetes, cancer, eye disease and much more.
- Faculty appointments in the center grew to 13 clinical and basic research science SOM faculty. It is notable to mention that 29 out of 45 SCRC faculty hold primary or joint appointments in the departments of Neurobiology & Behavior, Molecular Biology & Biochemistry, Developmental & Cell Biology, Chemical Engineering & Biomaterials, Biomedical Engineering, Pharmaceutical Sciences, Dance, and Law.
- UCI entered into a collaboration with UCLA to establish a California Institute of Regenerative Medicine Alpha Stem Cell Clinic. Launched with an $8 million CIRM grant, the joint entity conducts clinical trials of investigational stem cell therapies.
- Researchers announced progress in a host of areas, forging inroads into possible treatments for everything from wounds and preventable blindness to diabetes and Huntington's disease.

We thank Sid for his passionate commitment to advancing stem cell research in pursuit of treatments that will improve health in our community.

As interim director, I am committed to maintaining an environment where my esteemed colleagues are able to venture into the unknown and return with creative new ideas for eliminating some of life's most debilitating conditions. I hope you are as excited as we are to one day change how medicine is practiced.

Aileen Anderson
I have had the unique fortune to be in Sid Golub's orbit in three capacities:

First, as Executive Vice Chancellor, Sid signed off on my tenure decision. Later, as a Microbiology and Molecular Biology emeritus faculty colleague he occupied an office next to mine, and together, we participated in departmental seminars, faculty meetings and recruit efforts. I had many enjoyable conversations about science, politics, travel, photography and music. Third, as compadre in the research mission of the Sue & Bill Gross Stem Cell Research Center, I was fortunate to talk strategy, science and ethics with Sid.

Between and amongst all of these roles, Sid moved to Washington D.C. to be Executive Director of FASEB, a non-profit organization that is the principal umbrella organization of U.S. societies in the field of biological and medical research. One aspect I admire about Sid is that he has openly shared lessons from his wealth of local and national leadership experience. Sid has been a truly valuable source of advice on science, politics, ethics, leadership — how to champion missions while staying true to values of excellence and transparency. For this reason, I will always be grateful for Sid's mentorship and collegiality.

Thank you Sid!

Marian Waterman

Sid took on an onerous job and the continued strength of the Sue and Bill Gross Stem Cell Research Center speaks to the amazing job he has done in carrying out his job as Director. He is quite simply a "gentleman" in the very best sense of the word. He never shouts or screams or makes decisions just because he has the power. He reasons and argues but also listens and tries to understand and gain consensus. He rarely gets rankled and persuades by cajoling and reason rather than ranting. And he has a great sense of humor and a quote for every occasion! So it seems appropriate to quote the eminent scientist, Thomas Huxley:

"Thoughtfulness for others, generosity, modesty, and self-respect are the qualities which make a real gentleman (or lady).

Without doubt the continued close-knit feeling amongst the faculty in the stem cell center has been shaped by his behavior and his stewardship. Leslie and I wish he and Judy enormous fun in retirement and safe travels!

Peter Donovan
Former Prime Minister of Singapore, Lee Kuan Yew, once told his staffs "Those who believe that after I have left the government as prime minister, I will go into a permanent retirement really should have their heads examined."

I will miss Sid, but I am afraid we will continue to hear his god-like voice in the Gross Hall every now and then.

Ping H. Wang

Sid has been a steady guide for all of us in the Sue & Bill Gross Stem Cell Research Center. Even before becoming interim director, he provided leadership for the burgeoning group of stem cell scientists through his focus and perspective on ethics involved in this very new landscape and how to move through the regulatory processes. He taught all of us.

As interim director, he has been the glue to keep the center going and has been a strong advocate of keeping research going and facilitating student training. He has also been accessible and a friend.

Leslie Thompson

Dr. Sidney Golub is a remarkable scholar, ethicist, steward, and pillar of the University of California, Irvine. It has been my pleasure to work with him on colloquia, symposia, a special issue of the Journal of Law Medicine and Ethics, and also in the classroom. In each instance he has provided a tremendous gift of insight and nuance to whatever the topic may be—from the funding of scientific research to matters of informed consent. I will miss him and hope that even after retirement Dr. Golub will continue share his intellectual energy with us. On a more personal note, Sid is a wonderful and generous friend. He is thoughtful about others and truly committed the best that UCI stands for, including inclusion and a vision for a better world.

Michele Bratcher Goodwin
Professor Golub has been an insightful, enthusiastic, and benevolent leader for the Sue & Bill Gross Stem Cell Research Center. He really went the extra mile to hold the operation together. I will always appreciate his support and guidance as we have carried out our initial clinic trial with retinal progenitor cells in patients with retinitis pigmentosa.

Henry Klassen

I am thankful to Sid for his generosity of time, of wisdoms (shared and demonstrated), and for his exemplary leadership. Sid, thank you for teaching me as you did in science and in Center management, academic operations, and general life lessons. I will forever be grateful.

Steven Cramer

Ultimately, leadership is not about glorious crowning acts. It’s about keeping your team focused on a goal and motivated to do their best to achieve it, especially when the stakes are high and the consequences really matter. It is about laying the groundwork for others’ success, and then standing back and letting them shine.

—Chris Hadfeld
Astronaut and engineer