

For Immediate Release

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AFAR Appoints Nathaniel David, Ph.D., Co-founder of UNITY Biotechnology, to Board of Directors

New York, NY--Nathaniel "Ned" David, Ph.D., a biochemist and biotech entrepreneur who co-founded UNITY Biotechnology and four other visionary biotech companies, has joined the American Federation for Aging Research (AFAR) Board of Directors. AFAR is the premiere non-profit organization working to advance healthy aging through biomedical research.



David co-founded UNITY in 2011 along with three of the leading researchers in the field of cellular senescence, including AFAR grantee Judith Campisi, Ph.D.

David said he is honored to serve on AFAR's Board of Directors, having seen firsthand the impact that the organization's support for biomedical research makes: "Were it not for AFAR and its far-sighted vision going back three decades, UNITY—in its current form—wouldn't exist."

In 1990, Dr. Campisi (now Professor at The Buck Institute for Research on Aging) received a \$50,000 AFAR Research Grant for Junior Faculty, which enabled her to generate sufficient data on cellular senescence to get her first National Science Foundation grant, leading to two National Institutes of Health (NIH) grants.

"Fast forward 30 years," David said, "and we now have an entire field birthed by AFAR's long-sighted vision and \$50,000. Building on those seminal discoveries, pioneering research by UNITY's co-founders has now shown the correlations between cellular senescence and various diseases of aging. And UNITY has been able to raise \$162 million to ask and answer the question: Does the elimination of senescent cells prevent, delay or even reverse certain diseases of aging?"

UNITY is developing a new class of drugs referred to as senolytics that are designed to target and selectively clear senescent cells found in certain diseases of aging. Senescent cells are cells that stop dividing in response to biochemical stress, accumulating over time and causing inflammation and damage to nearby tissue. UNITY's researchers have shown in mice that clearing senescent cells may prevent, delay or even reverse certain age-related chronic diseases such as osteoarthritis and glaucoma.

AFAR Executive Director Stephanie Lederman, Ed.M. welcomes David's vision: "Ned is on the cutting edge of translating advances that are being made in biotechnology into clinical practice. But he also understands how crucial it is to continue supporting research into the basic biological mechanisms of aging that will lead to future generations of therapies that will further extend our health span—the amount of time we live healthy and active lives."

On AFAR's board, David joins a roster of esteemed investigators from research institutions across the country including Harvard University, Stanford University, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, and Mayo Clinic, as well as corporate and philanthropic leaders.

AFAR previously honored David with its 2017 Honorary Leadership Award for his achievements. Before UNITY, David co-founded Syrrx (acquired by Takeda), Achaogen (AKAO), Kythera Biopharmaceuticals (KYTH, acquired by Allergan), and Sapphire Energy. Together, they raised over \$1.5 billion in financing and today employ more than 400 scientists, engineers, and business people. David holds pending and issued patents in fields such as nanovolume crystallography, antibiotic resistance, aesthetic medicine, and cellular senescence. He has served on the board of directors of Kythera Biopharmaceuticals, Sapphire Energy, and the Buck Institute for Research on Aging and is a member of the board of trustees of the University of California Foundation. He holds a Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley in Molecular and Cellular Biology and an A.B. in Biology from Harvard University.

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ABOUT AFAR: The American Federation for Aging Research (AFAR) is a national non-profit organization whose mission is to support and advance healthy aging through biomedical research. Founded in 1981, AFAR funds physicians and scientists, at critical points throughout their careers, who are probing the fundamental mechanisms of aging, as well as specific diseases associated with aging populations. Learn more at www.afar.org or follow AFARorg on Twitter and Facebook.