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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Jackson Laboratory Director Dr. Charles Lee Elected to Connecticut Science Center Board of Trustees

Hartford, CT (October 7, 2021) – The Connecticut Science Center is pleased to announce the addition of **Charles Lee, Ph.D., FACMG**, Director and Professor at The Jackson Laboratory for Genomic Medicine, to the Board of Trustees. This announcement follows the addition of Ajay Kumar, MD and Kwesi Quaye to the Connecticut Science Center Board of Trustees earlier this summer. The diverse talents and perspectives of these individuals will be a tremendous asset to the Board of Trustees of the Hartford-based STEM educational destination.

"We are thrilled to have Dr. Lee joining our Board of Trustees." Said Matt Fleury, President and CEO of the Connecticut Science Center, "Each trustee who joins the board brings their own unique set of talents and perspectives to the group, and Dr. Lee is no exception. At a time when genomic research is so important in our nation's response to the pandemic, cancer and many other illnesses, Dr. Lee represents a powerful area of science that is very important to our region and the world."

Since opening in 2009, the Science Center has served more than 3.5 million people. The Science Center offers more than 165 exhibits in ten galleries. Visitors have continued to engage with the exhibits they know and love in a safe clean environment at the Science Center, as well as the new permanent exhibition, *Genome in Me*, supported in part by The Jackson Laboratory. The community has also discovered new ways to engage with the Science Center, even when they are not there in person through a robust array of "Science at Home" virtual offerings.

### About Dr. Charles Lee



Dr. Lee is Director and professor at the Jackson Laboratory for Genomic Medicine (JAX-GM). Dr. Lee joined JAX-GM from Harvard Medical School and Brigham and Women's Hospital. He is best known for his discovery that copy-number variation – a state in which cells have an abnormal number of DNA sections, sometimes associated with susceptibility or resistance to disease – is widespread and significant in the human genome. This discovery, and his subsequent research, has provided tools that clinicians use to make more accurate diagnoses for hundreds of thousands of genetic tests every year on conditions such as autism, birth defects and cancer.

Throughout his career, Dr. Lee has received numerous accolades and awards for his research into the human genome, including the 2007 American Association for Cancer Research Team Award and the 2008 Ho-Am Prize in Medicine. He is an elected fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Sciences (AAAS), a 2014 Thompson Reuters Citation Laureate and is currently president of the Human Genome Organization (HUGO).

For a complete list of current trustees, please visit [CTScienceCenter.org/about/board-of-trustees](http://CTScienceCenter.org/about/board-of-trustees)

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***About the Connecticut Science Center:*** The LEED- Gold certified Connecticut Science Center, located in downtown Hartford, sparks creative imagination and an appreciation for science by immersing visitors in fun and educational hands-on, minds-on interactive experiences while maintaining an environmentally conscious presence. Serving more than 3.5 million people since opening in 2009, the Science Center features more than 165 exhibits in ten galleries, covering a range of topics including space and earth sciences, physical sciences, biology, the Connecticut River watershed, alternative energy sources, Connecticut inventors and innovations, a children's gallery, and much more. Other features include the state's only year-round butterfly habitat, five educational labs, a 200-seat 3D digital theater, function room, gift store, and ongoing events for all ages.

The Science Center is a non-profit organization dedicated to enhancing science education throughout the state of Connecticut and New England, providing learning opportunities for students and adults of all ages, and engaging the community in scientific exploration. The Connecticut Science Center is the home to the Joyce D. and Andrew J. Mandell Academy for Teachers, offering powerful professional development for educators. *More information:* [CTScienceCenter.org](http://CTScienceCenter.org) or (860) SCIENCE.