

Board Meeting
May 31, 2012

AUTHORIZE HONORARY DEGREE, URBANA

Action: Authorize the Award of Honorary Doctorate Degree

Funding: No New Funding Required

The Senate at Urbana-Champaign has recommended that an honorary degree be conferred on the following person at Commencement Exercises on May 12, 2013:

James Thomson, Director of Regenerative Biology, Morgridge Institute of Research, University of Wisconsin and John D. McArthur Professor, University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health--the honorary degree of Doctor of Science.

James Thomson, a University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign alumnus, is an international leader in biomedical research. Dr. Thomson led the group that reported the first isolation of embryonic stem cell lines from a non-human primate in 1995. This work led to the first successful isolation of human embryonic stem cell lines in 1998. In 2008, *Time* named him one of the world's 100 most influential people. A member of the National Academy of Sciences, Dr. Thomas was co-recipient of the King Faisal International Prize and the Albany Medical Center Prize in 2011.

The Vice President, University of Illinois, and Chancellor, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign concurs in this recommendation.

The Board action recommended in this item complies in all material respects with applicable State and federal laws, University of Illinois *Statutes, The General Rules Concerning University Organization and Procedure*, and Board of Trustees policies and directives.

The President of the University recommends approval.