



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## College of Medicine names Senior Associate Dean for Research

*Northwestern cancer geneticist and acclaimed researcher  
Marcelo B. Soares, Ph.D. selected*

**PEORIA** – (Dec. 4, 2014) Marcelo Bento Soares, Ph.D., was named Senior Associate Dean for Research at the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Peoria.

Dr. Soares, currently the Director of the Cancer Biology and Epigenomics Program at the Stanley Manne Children’s Research Institute and the Scientific Director of the Falk Brain Tumor Center at the Ann and Robert H. Lurie Children’s Hospital of Chicago, brings nearly three and a half decades of research work in genomics, genetics and cancer biology.

He is world renowned for his contributions to the Human Genome Project, and in particular for his work for the development of publicly available databases of Expressed Sequence Tags. Over the last 15 years, Dr. Soares has dedicated his expertise in genetics and genomics to cancer research, including chondrosarcoma, osteosarcoma, breast cancer, prostate cancer, and most especially pediatric brain tumors.

“Dr. Soares chose to come to Peoria because he recognized UICOMP’s cancer research laboratories, the existing expertise in cancer and neuroscience research, and our strong clinical partners provided a unique opportunity to build a focused, world-class research enterprise,” said UICOMP Regional Dean Dr. Sara Rusch. “His broad experience and collaborative nature will bring together researchers from different backgrounds, creating synergies that will grow research in Peoria. I am truly delighted to have him join our leadership team.”

In his position at UICOMP, Dr. Soares will provide direct research and academic leadership, oversee recruitment of new researchers to Peoria and develop existing investigators to strengthen the basic science research at UICOMP as well as engage with the local community on collaborative translational research programs. He also will serve as UICOMP’s Head of Cancer Biology and Pharmacology.

Dr. Soares officially will begin in February, relocating his own research laboratory to UICOMP’s Cancer Research Center. His current work is aimed at identifying the molecular mechanisms underlying development of pediatric brain tumors, the study of a mouse model of Pediatric Neuroectodermal Tumors, and the impact of diet on prostate cancer development.

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