



Dr. James Olds

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has selected George Mason University's Dr. James L. Olds to serve as assistant director for the Directorate for Biological Sciences (BIO). Olds is a director and chief academic unit officer at the Krasnow Institute for Advanced Study, a position he has held for 15 years. He is also the Shelley Krasnow University Professor of Molecular Neuroscience. The international Decade of the Mind project was begun under his leadership at Krasnow, which helped shape President Obama's BRAIN Initiative.

Olds has served as chair of the molecular neuroscience department since 2007. From 2010-2011, and from 2013-2014, Old was chair of GMU's Neuroscience Advisory Council. Since 2005, he has served as editor-in-chief of *The Biological Bulletin*, which is published by the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole, Mass.

Olds serves on numerous private and public boards and has played a central role in scientific public policy development at all levels, ranging from Commonwealth of Virginia and the White House to advising heads of ministries internationally. He spent eight years as chair of Sandia National Laboratory's External Cognitive Science Board. In the non-profit world, Olds was treasurer of Americans for Medical Progress. Prior to his leadership role at Krasnow, Olds was the CEO for the American Association of Anatomists. He received his undergraduate degree from Amherst College in chemistry and his doctorate from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor in the field of neuroscience. His postdoctoral research at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) led to advances in understanding the molecular basis of learning and memory, and he received the NIH Merit Award in 1993.

Olds will begin his NSF appointment in October 2014.