

Thomas A. Rando, MD, PhD is Director of the Rehabilitation Research & Development Center of Excellence at the VA Palo Alto Health Care System where he is also Chief of Neurology. He is Professor of Neurology and Neurological Sciences and Director of the Glenn Laboratories for the Biology of Aging at Stanford University School of Medicine. Dr. Rando's research concerns the basic biology of stem cells and how they function in adult tissue homeostasis, in degenerative diseases, and in aging and the application of stem cell therapeutics toward muscle diseases and muscle injury. Groundbreaking work from his lab showed that the age-related decline in stem cell function is due primarily to influences of the aged environment rather than to intrinsic aging of stem cells themselves. Rando has received numerous awards, including a Paul Beeson Physician Faculty Scholar in Aging from the American Federation for Aging Research and a Scholar Award from the Ellison Medical Foundation. In 2005 he received the prestigious NIH Director's Pioneer Award for his work at the interface between stem cell biology and the biology of aging and he recently received a Transformative Research Award from the NIH for the study of the regulation of cognitive function by physical activity and exercise.