



WILLIAM A. O'BRIEN

Chief Medical Officer

William A. O'Brien MD, MS, is Chief Medical Officer of Zirus. Dr. O'Brien has an illustrious record as an academic scientist, AIDS clinician and educator. After receiving Bachelor's and Master's of Science degrees from MIT and MD degree from University of Minnesota School, he went to Los Angeles in 1981 to embark on his postgraduate medical career. He trained at the West Los Angeles VA Medical Center and UCLA, which were at the epicenter of the unfurling HIV/AIDS epidemic. He was involved in HIV/AIDS care as the disease was discovered and gradually understood, and went on to make seminal advances in our understanding and treatment of HIV/AIDS through laboratory and clinical research. Dr. O'Brien is passionate about patients and improving their lives through cutting edge science and is a proud father of his son entering a Ph.D. program in electrical engineering.

William O'Brien MD, MS is a physician and an established laboratory scientist who entered postdoctoral training just at the time (1981) and the place (West Los Angeles) of the beginning of HIV/AIDS in the United States. Working in university and government laboratories and clinics, he was:

- First to determine the HIV viral genetic determinants of cell tropism, establishing the requirement for HIV coreceptors.
O'Brien et al, Nature, 1990; O'Brien et al, J Virol, 1992
- First report of inhibition of HIV replication through blockade of chemokine receptor, CXCR4
O'Brien et al, J Virol, 1996; Doranz et al, J Exp Med, 1997
- First reports to establish viral load changes as a measure of antiretroviral efficacy in vivo
O'Brien et al, New Engl J Med, 1996; Saag et al, Nature Medicine, 1996;
O'Brien et al, Ann Intern Med, 1997

Dr. O'Brien is a 1992 recipient of the Arthur S. Fleming award as one of five outstanding scientists under the age of 40 in government service, based on his VA affiliation. He advanced to tenured faculty at UCLA School of Medicine the same year. From 1997-2007, at the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston, he led both laboratory and clinical trials HIV/AIDS research groups. In addition to research, Dr. O'Brien is a clinician educator. He has authored over 150 Internet reports, including studies and highlight reports of medical and scientific conferences. Throughout his career, he has been involved in patient care, student and physician education and establishment of policy and guidelines for treatment of HIV infection. He has served on editorial boards for UCLA AIDS update, Journal of Experimental Medicine and Biology and Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy. He is currently Clinical Professor of Medicine at Emory University School of Medicine, where he provides patient care and education and participates in clinical trials at the County Grady HIV/AIDS clinic as volunteer faculty.