

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****ALLEN INSTITUTE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER DAVID POSTON JOINS BIOTECH STARTUP**

SEATTLE, WASH. — September 22, 2016 — The Allen Institute today announced Chief Financial Officer David Poston is leaving to join Seattle-based tumor vaccine startup EpiThany as Chief Operating Officer. EpiThany was founded in 2014 to consolidate the discovery technology and clinical stage assets of the Tumor Vaccine Group (TVG) at the University of Washington. The company is pioneering a new class of anti-cancer immunotherapy for robust tumor-targeted T-cell immunity.

“David has been a tremendous partner in helping to plan and manage our extraordinary growth over the past several years,” said Allan Jones, Ph.D., Chief Executive Officer of the Allen Institute. “He has an exciting opportunity at EpiThany, and we wish him the very best.”

Poston joined the Allen Institute in 2011. During his tenure, he helped craft and execute a 10-year expansion plan for the Allen Institute for Brain Science. He also helped launch and develop long-range plans for both the Allen Institute for Cell Science and The Paul G. Allen Frontiers Group. Additionally, Poston was instrumental in supporting the Allen Institute’s move from multiple buildings in Seattle’s Fremont neighborhood to a new, state-of-the-art headquarters in South Lake Union.

“This is a unique opportunity to join a biotech startup, and help shape and build out the company,” said Poston. “I’ve had an incredible five years at the Allen Institute. It has been an honor to steward the extraordinary philanthropy of our founder Paul Allen, and to help the Institute successfully execute on its scientific goals and expansion initiatives.”

Originally from Yakima, Washington, Poston received a B.A. in Business Administration from the University of Puget Sound, where he graduated as the Norton Clapp Arete Scholar. He is an active University of Puget Sound volunteer, currently serving as a Business Leadership mentor. Poston recently served as Chair of the University of Puget Sound Alumni Fund and as a member of its Alumni Council Executive Committee. He also serves as a board member of Plymouth Housing Group and Life Science Washington.

About the Allen Institute

The Allen Institute (alleninstitute.org) is an independent, 501(c)(3) nonprofit medical research organization dedicated to answering some of the biggest questions in life science and accelerating research worldwide. Using the original guiding principles—team science, big science and open science—the Allen Institute generates useful public resources for researchers and organizations around the globe. The Allen Institute is a recognized leader in large-scale research with a commitment to an open science model. The Allen Institute for Brain Science launched in 2003 with a seed contribution from founder and philanthropist Paul G. Allen. Today, the Allen Institute is supported by a diversity of government, foundation and private funds to enable its projects. Given the Institute’s achievements, Mr. Allen committed an additional \$300 million in 2012 for the first four years of the Allen Institute for Brain Science’s ten-year plan to further propel and expand its scientific programs, and launched the Allen Institute for Cell Science in 2014, bringing his total commitment to date to \$1 billion.

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