



Penn  
Medicine

Institute for **Diabetes, Obesity & Metabolism**

## Message from Dr. Mitch Lazar



Klaus Kaestner, PhD

New Co-Director of IDOM Type 1 Diabetes Unit

I am pleased to announce that **Dr. Klaus Kaestner** has accepted the position of Co-Director of the [Type 1 Diabetes Unit](#) of the Institute for Diabetes, Obesity and Metabolism. In this position Dr. Kaestner will join **Dr. Ali Najj** in leading the Unit, along with **Dr. Mike Rickels** as Assistant Director.

I'm sure Klaus Kaestner is known to everyone in the IDOM community. His research focuses on functional genomics of the endocrine pancreas and he is involved in several projects that aim to improve the differentiation of stem or progenitor cells into insulin-producing beta-cells. For this purpose, he is employing both modern genetic and epigenomic analyses. Through these efforts, it is hoped that an unlimited supply of mature, fully functional beta-cells can be generated for the treatment of type I diabetics in the future.

The IDOM is making great progress in realizing the Institute's mission to enhance basic and translational research in diabetes, obesity, and metabolic complications at Penn. We believe that we have a unique opportunity to build on our existing excellence and achieve pre-eminence in this area. I am very excited about continuing to work with Dr. Kaestner in the context of the IDOM to make Penn the world's leader in diabetes, obesity, and metabolism.

Sincerely,

Mitch Lazar