

Douglas Melton, PhD

Born in Chicago, Dr. Melton earned a bachelor's degree in biology from the University of Illinois then went to Cambridge University in England as a Marshall Scholar. He earned a B.A. in history and philosophy of science at Cambridge, and remained there to earn a Ph.D. in molecular biology at Trinity College, Cambridge and the MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology.

Melton is now the Xander University Professor at Harvard Medical School and the Faculty of Arts and Sciences. He teaches undergrads in the College and graduate students including those in the MS/MBA program at Harvard Business School. The focus of research in the Melton Lab is using cell and molecular biology to make functional human pancreatic islets for the study and treatment of diabetes.

Melton is the Co-Director/Founder of the Harvard Stem Cell Institute. He was a scientific founder of Gilead, iPierian, Curis and Semma Therapeutics (now part of Vertex). In recognition of his research and advocacy for human embryonic stem cell research he was chosen as the Scientific American Policy Leader of the Year in 2007 and has twice been named as one of Time Magazine's 100 Most Influential People.