



March 29, 2012

Barbara Vickrey
UCLA Neuro
BOX 951769, C-241 RNRC
Los Angeles, CA 90095-1769 March 28, 2012

Re: Application to RFA-NS-12-007: Stroke Prevention/Intervention Research Program (SPIRP) (U54) for “Los Angeles Stroke Prevention/Intervention Center in Health Disparities”

Dear Dr. Vickrey,

I am pleased to confirm my wholehearted support for your NINDS U54 SPIRP Center application, which will develop and rigorously test innovative interventions to reduce disparities in stroke care and outcomes in minority communities. The Center will also include a research training core to attract and facilitate the training of the next generation of physician-scientists in stroke disparities research, as well as a community engagement core to promote two-way interactions between community members and academic investigators to enrich and strengthen the impact and effectiveness of this research. Your proposal is perfectly aligned with the mission of the UCLA Clinical and Translational Science Institute, which is to improve health in Los Angeles while training the translational researchers of tomorrow.

I am impressed with the multidisciplinary expertise you have assembled in this proposal, which includes UCLA faculty, partnerships with Harbor-UCLA Medical Center (a member institution in our CTSI), Olive View-UCLA Medical Center, Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center and numerous community partners. I am equally impressed with the depth of your proposed training program, which includes a collaboration between the UCLA and University of Southern California CTSIs. This is a model of the kind of research the national CTSA network is designed to support.

The UCLA CTSI is an academic-clinical partnership of UCLA, the Burns and Allen Research Institute at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, Los Angeles Biomedical Institute at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center and Charles Drew University of Medicine and Science. We look forward to supporting and interacting with your Center in several ways:

Our Community Engagement in Research Program— co-led by Dr. Arleen Brown, one of your Center application’s project PIs and community engagement core co-leaders— is the primary link to our diverse Los Angeles community. It builds community capacity to engage in research and to communicate research



UCLA Clinical and Translational Science Institute
Office of the Institute
Room 16-111 CHS, Box 739619, Los Angeles, CA 90095-7396
Phone: (310) 983-1168 Fax: (310) 267-0493

findings. A main goal of our Community Engagement in Research Program is to facilitate opportunities for health services research, with an emphasis on health disparities research.

Our Research Education, Training and Career Development Program houses most of our education and training activities. Co-led by Dr. Mitchell Wong, one of the Center application's Research Education and Training Core investigators, the CTSI program builds collaborations with other CTSI program, such as our Biostatistics Program, to identify training and education needs and opportunities. It houses the KL2 Mentored Research Career Development Program and ensures CTSI trainees acquire the core competencies needed to conduct community-participatory, multidisciplinary research across the translational spectrum.

Our Pilot and Collaborative Translational and Clinical Studies Program (Pilot/ Collaborative Program) drives research within the UCLA CTSI. It assembles new transdisciplinary teams among senior and junior investigators, provides seed funding specifically for junior investigators, fosters collaborations among basic, clinical and community researchers, and provides funding for development of novel methodologies. This resource is an opportunity for new investigators in stroke disparities research, whom your Center's research and training activities will help identify and bring into this field, to apply for critical seed grant funding.

On behalf of the CTSI leadership, I ask that you and Center project leaders give presentations and updates to us periodically at our standing leadership meetings. This interaction will ensure that as the work and findings of your Center progress, the CTSI is able to identify appropriate infrastructure support to help disseminate that work and foster new directions in stroke disparities research.

We look forward to working with you in your important research, which will leverage NIH's investment in our infrastructure to develop translational science leaders and improve stroke outcomes in diverse populations. I wish you great success with your Los Angeles Stroke Prevention/Intervention Center in Health Disparities application.

Sincerely,

Steven M. Dubinett, M.D.
Director, Clinical and Translational Science Institute
Associate Vice Chancellor for Research
Senior Associate Dean for Translational Research
Professor and Chief, Division of Pulmonary & Critical Care Medicine
UCLA

UCLA Clinical and Translational Science Institute
Office of the Institute
Room 37-131 CHS, Box 951690, Los Angeles, CA 90095-1690
Phone: (310) 983-1169 Fax: (310) 267-0493