



OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT - RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
1111 Franklin Street, 11th Floor
Oakland, California 94607-5200

March 27, 2020

Dear UC Research Community, R&I Staff, Colleagues, and Friends:

On this Cesar Chavez Day holiday, I send this message while contemplating my first two weeks at the University of California as the new Vice President for Research and Innovation (R&I). Let me extend my admiration and support to each of you in your respective roles and acknowledge your many contributions to UC, the State of California, and society at large.

Since the day I arrived, the coronavirus pandemic has been precipitously penetrating our lives and disrupting our research enterprise in unprecedented ways. Yet I continue to witness a strong, collegial community of exceptional people across the system, who have swiftly mobilized to respond to the incredible challenges before us. On a daily basis, I am impressed by the collaborative approaches to complex problem-solving throughout the UC research community as we work together to assess the evolving situation and to provide rapid, informed guidance. Clearly, I have been introduced to a University of California at its best, particularly at a time it is most challenged.

First, let me acknowledge our shared anxiety and duress. Among our community are many researchers who have had to quickly ramp down their laboratory operations and research programs. This unforeseen process has directly affected all parts of the research community, from longtime Principal Investigators with large operations to early career researchers. Also affected are staff who have endured rapid shifts in daily responsibilities and routines as well as students and postdoctoral scholars experiencing heightened uncertainties and unknown career futures. These stressors are only one component of the sacrifices and adjustments we are making for the good of our families, friends, and colleagues.

For the past two weeks, the Vice Chancellors for Research (VCRs) and R&I staff have been diligently working together to craft immediate measures to ensure that the core guiding principle of the health and safety of our research community is achieved. At the same time, we have been exploring ways to protect all aspects of our premier research enterprise. In addition to the VCRs, the R&I staff have been coordinating with UC Health, affiliated institutions, the Academic Senate, and other offices at the UC Office of the President and across all UC campuses. To all of you, I am grateful!

We are keenly aware of the urgent need to uphold the well-being and integrity of our research workforce, infrastructure, and programs. I am confident that UC, collectively, will lead the transformation from this period of crisis to an era of restoration and renewed purpose.

As part of the UC family, please be empowered to play a role in necessary solutions:

- 1) Above all, stay healthy and take care of your families, friends, and colleagues.
- 2) Proactively offer your ideas and assistance; work with others, including those at sister UC campuses. Please keep us apprised of issues that should be brought to our attention at research&innovation@ucop.edu.
- 3) Stay informed about fast-moving developments and updates. See UC COVID-19 resources available [here](#).

In closing, I ask that you join me in moving forward to maintain our strong commitment to our researchers, staff, and students and to preserve the UC mission. Let us work together with resolve to continue advancing the frontiers of discovery and understanding toward the common good.

Sincerely,



Theresa A. Maldonado, Ph.D., P.E.
Vice President for Research & Innovation

cc: Academic Senate Chair Bhavnani
Academic Senate Vice Chair Gauvain
Provost Brown
Executive Vice President Byington
Vice President Brown
Vice Provost Carlson
Vice Provost and Interim Vice President Gullatt
UCORP Chair Baird
Executive Director Baxter