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September 16, 2019

Chair Major  
Vice-Chair Lo  
Members, High-Containment Laboratory Oversight Committee (HCLOC)

Dear Chair Major, Vice-Chair Lo, and Members of the HCLOC:

I want to extend my gratitude and thanks to you for your leadership during the past 18 months as the members of the High-Containment Laboratory Oversight Committee. I received the recent Progress Report, which highlights accomplishments in several areas, including the completion of an evaluation of the UC medical center clinical labs, ongoing development of systemwide BSL-3 Laboratory Design Standards, and review and oversight of campus High Containment Laboratory Oversight Group (HCLOG) activities. During our meeting on August 7<sup>th</sup>, we discussed a number of important topics, including continued HCLOC interaction and engagement with medical center representatives, as well as next steps toward finalizing and adopting the BSL-3 Laboratory Design Standards.

With regard to the medical center clinical labs, I request that the HCLOC prepare an overall summary report of the site visit findings for distribution to the clinical lab directors. Moving forward, I would like the HCLOC to work with the clinical lab directors and managers to develop a best practices guide for the operations and activities that occur in these spaces. As part of the HCLOC's collaboration with the medical center representatives, please continue to work with these key stakeholders and identify how best to foster communication and engagement between the medical center labs, their local HCLOGs, and the HCLOC.

I was encouraged to hear about the progress that the committee has made in developing the BSL-3 Laboratory Design Standards. I recognize that this is no small undertaking and will be of great value to the UC system. I would like the HCLOC to consider finalizing and approving these design standards at the next in-person meeting scheduled for October.

During our meeting, we reviewed whether these design criteria should represent mandatory minimum standards or whether should they represent merely suggested guidelines. Recognizing several factors—including the overall complexity of these facilities, the importance of the design and engineering of these labs in ensuring biosafety and biosecurity, and the considerable expense that can accompany construction deficiencies requiring later

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correction—I request that the BSL-3 Laboratory Design Standards be framed as the minimum acceptable design criteria for the UC system and therefore function as mandatory standards.

Realizing that some locations may request a deviation from these standards, we also discussed the potential procedures for reviewing and approving such requests. I would like the HCLOC to establish the following process for deviation requests. First, deviations from the required minimum elements must be justified by a risk assessment. Second, the local HCLOG must review and approve any such deviations. Third, if the local HCLOG approves a deviation, the systemwide HCLOC must then also review and approve the deviation; once approved by the HCLOC, a deviation may be implemented.

In finalizing the BSL-3 Laboratory Design Standards, please ensure that this review and approval process will take place rapidly such that deviation requests will not become a significant impediment to overall laboratory design and construction. With respect to local adoption and implementation of the new BSL-3 Laboratory Design Standards, please provide this document (once approved at the systemwide level) to locations via their respective HCLOGs and request that each location coordinate with its local design and construction unit to incorporate the new standards into the Campus Building Standards.

Thank you again for your efforts and continued leadership in improving UC's high-containment laboratory programs.

Yours very truly,

  
Janet Napolitano  
President

cc: Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Rachael Nava  
Executive Vice President John Stobo  
Vice President Cheryl Lloyd  
Deputy Chief Risk Officer Kevin Confetti