

Evelyn F. McKnight Brain Institute

October 11, 2013

Trustees , McKnight Brain Research Foundation

Dear Trustees:

First of all, on behalf of all the Evelyn F. McKnight Institute Chairs and Directors, thank you for your approval of financial support for establishing a new Evelyn F. McKnight Inter-Institutional Bioinformatics Core. I am writing to provide the requested Business Plan for implementing the new Evelyn F. McKnight Inter-Institutional Bioinformatics Core, which is enclosed as a separate attachment. I also have attached a copy of the already-approved original proposal for the Core in case you would like to have it for reference.

In preparing the business plan Carol Barnes, Tom Foster and I have taken into consideration that the Board noted possible legal (intellectual property) complications related to having a TGEN employee supervise a UA employee. Dr. Barnes estimates that UA and TGEN will have the legalities worked out and settled before your upcoming Board meeting and visit to UA this month, and she can give you an in-person report on that topic when the trustees visit there. Apparently (but we are not 100% sure this is the case) there may be a pre-existing agreement in place between UA and TGen that is applicable here. If so, Dr. Barnes is reasonably confident that the legal aspects will be squared away soon.

However, in the case that the legal issues take longer to settle, all three of us (Barnes, Foster, Sweatt) are comfortable with the idea of a "phased" implementation plan wherein the UF group would go ahead and start spending their budgeted amounts and make available their components of the Core, and all four Institutes would go ahead and start the collaborative initiative. In this option we would wait to fund and begin the UA bioinformatics component until the potential legal issues are resolved.

Thus, one way or the other we would be able to start the bioinformatics core project immediately following the approval of the proposed business plan at the upcoming McKnight Board meeting. With this in mind, in the attached business plan we have split out the budget so that the UF and UA components are clearly separate, in case their is a need for their phased implementation.

Once again, thank you for your support of this Initiative. The Epigenetics Initiative meetings have been highly productive, focused, collaborative, and exceptionally innovative. We believe the Initiative has identified a novel target area that will both propel new discoveries in cognitive aging and produce a high-profile scientific focal point with which the McKnight "brand" will be identified nationally and internationally. Innovative therapeutic approaches to cognitive enhancement in aging is a strong, viable target outcome for the initiative.

Sincerely,



David Sweatt,
On behalf of all the participating Investigators