



School of Medicine

Office of the Dean

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March 11, 2022

Dr. Mark L. Kornbluh, Provost
Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs
Office of the Provost
4228 Faculty Administration Building
Detroit, MI 48202

Dear Dr Kornbluh,

I am in support of approval of a 5-year charter for the Wayne State University School of Medicine Center for Emerging Infectious Diseases. The Center has demonstrated a variety of important accomplishments since it was granted temporary charter status from the Academic Senate in 2021. The formation of the Center for Emerging and Infectious Diseases (CEID) was predicated on the knowledge that residents of Michigan, like other regions of the USA, are at risk of serious illness due to a variety of emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases. COVID-19 is a prime example, but it was not the first and will not be the last threat that we will be exposed to over the next several decades. Based on history, we expect that residents of Detroit and those living throughout Michigan and the U.S., will be threatened by future pathogens of pandemic potential. Thus, pandemic preparation and planning will be key activities for clinicians, scientists, investigators, and collaborators of CEID.

The creation of the CEID reflects the highest level of collaboration within the School of Medicine. It will be used for collaborative efforts in education, training, research, and public health, and has already secured significant external funding. It also will serve as a source of generating revenue through other laboratory services for area clinics and hospitals. CEID will serve as a resource for information and expertise in community engagement and pandemic preparedness for policy makers, and health care professionals and organizations. The CEID is an important element in the spectrum of public health response to pandemics and infectious diseases in general.

In short, the CEID will enhance WSU SOM standing as an international leader in infectious disease and public health research, training, and service. There is strong leadership in the center, and important goals and accomplishments. Importantly, the support is 100 percent externally funding. I am in support of approval of 5-year charter status. At the end of the five-year period, CEID will be reviewed and assessed in accordance with University Policy to determine if its charter should be extended.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Wael Sakr'.

Wael Sakr, MD

Dean

Wayne State University School of Medicine