

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Office of the Chancellor
Swanlund Administration Building
601 East John Street
Champaign, IL 61820



March 22, 2017

Health Sciences Strategy Task Force

Neal Cohen, IHSI Director, *Chair*
Reggie Alston, Kinesiology and Community Health
Stephen Boppart, Electrical and Computer Engineering
Martin Burke, Chemistry
Roy Campbell, Computer Science
Sharon Donovan, Food Science and Human Nutrition
John Erdman, Food Science and Human Nutrition
Tim Fan, Veterinary Clinical Medicine
Barbara Fiese, Human Development and Family Studies
Martha Gillette, Cell and Developmental Biology
Craig Gundersen, Agricultural and Consumer Economics
Wendy Heller, Psychology
Princess Imoukhuede, Bioengineering
King Li, Carle Illinois College of Medicine
Brent Roberts, Psychology
Sue Schantz, Comparative Biosciences
Jim Slauch, Microbiology
Brad Sutton, Bioengineering
Derek Wildman, Molecular and Integrative Physiology
Jeff Woods, Kinesiology and Community Health

Dear Colleagues:

The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign has seen tremendous change and progress in the last three years in the health arena. The establishment of the Interdisciplinary Health Sciences Initiative (IHSI) at Illinois as a campus-wide support entity for health-related research activities, the creation of the Carle Illinois College of Medicine, the maturation of the Mayo Clinic and Illinois Alliance for Technology-Based Health Care, our expanding partnerships with OSF, and emerging uses of big data and data analytics to advance medicine and health are all notable achievements in our efforts to meet the health-related goals of the university's 2013-2016 strategic plan.

To further build on this progress, to contribute to our next phase of strategic planning, and to create the best possible foundation for future success in this area, we are initiating the development of a comprehensive strategy for health sciences research, education and engagement. Based on consultation with campus leadership, including the Deans and Institute Directors with whom you are associated, you have been identified to contribute critically to this process by serving on the Health Sciences Strategy Task Force. IHSI Director Neal Cohen has

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agreed to lead this Task Force, whose efforts will culminate in a report to the Chancellor and Provost.

In carrying out its strategy making effort, the task force should explicitly address the following:

- In what areas does Illinois have the greatest opportunity to positively impact state, national and global health through research, education and engagement?
- What opportunities and challenges do we face in health-related research and education over the next five to ten years?
- What specific actions would be most effective in realizing our potential in health education, research and engagement? What new investments would be necessary to implement those actions? Please distinguish short (24 months), medium (3-5 years), and long-term horizons (5-10 years) for the actions.
- How can we better leverage our research strengths to enhance the university's educational mission in health-related fields?
- The area of health presents many opportunities for community engagement. How best can we engage our local community through the health sciences?

In producing the comprehensive strategy, we ask that you develop, at the outset of your efforts, a process for engaging key internal and external stakeholders and drawing on the diversity of disciplinary expertise on the campus.

We would like to receive your final report no later than December 1, 2017. We appreciate your willingness to serve on this task force.

Sincerely,



Robert J. Jones
Chancellor



John P. Wilkin
Interim Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Provost

c: P. Schiffer