November 14, 2012

TO: Members of the Board of Trustees

FROM: Mun Y. Choi, Interim Provost

RE: Institute for Systems Genomics

BACKGROUND:

Under the leadership of Dr. Marc Lalande, the Institute for Systems Genomics will work towards the following mission:

1) Establish a world-class program for research and training in Genomics and Personalized Medicine by mobilizing the strengths of the Jackson Lab and the University of Connecticut, with other academic and industry partners;

2) Lower administrative barriers to collaboration among JAX, the Farmington campus, and the Storrs campus in areas related to Genomics and Personalized Medicine, and;

3) Develop an academic structure that supports undergraduate, professional, and graduate education bridging the UConn and JAX genomics communities.

To accomplish these goals, the Institute’s faculty and staff at Jackson Laboratory and the University of Connecticut will build robust cutting-edge technology pipelines that are well managed with expertise from both institutions; will coordinate recruitment to achieve critical mass and impact; will incentivize and facilitate collaboration via mechanisms that fund and support seed grants and access to students, will facilitate site interaction, distance meeting as well and housing and transport. The Institute will sponsor integrative research symposia and conferences and foster reeducation across disciplines through the executive training modules.

The Institute will develop an Interdisciplinary Graduate Program that selects for the best graduate students and that features modular units of education that are experiential, problem based and targeted. The Institute will establish a mechanism for joint mentorship and advising, and define a core knowledge base. There is a strong consensus to create a professional science master’s degree in Systems Genomics, and this new program may be an excellent entry point for the Ph.D. The Institute will also develop distance learning and e-learning strategies for a futuristic graduate program.

The Institute’s establishment proposal was reviewed and approved by the Academic Centers and Institutes Review Committee.

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