

SEAN M. WU, MD, PHD
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF MEDICINE AND, BY COURTESY, PEDIATRICS
DEPT. OF MEDICINE (CARDIOVASCULAR MEDICINE)
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, CARDIOVASCULAR INSTITUTE
STANFORD UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

ROOM G1120A, LOKEY STEM CELL BLDG.
265 CAMPUS DRIVE
STANFORD, CA 94305-5454
PH: (650) 724-4498; FAX: (650) 724-4689
E-MAIL: smwu@stanford.edu

October 6, 2019

President Joe Simitian
Members of the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors
70 W. Hedding Street
San Jose, CA 95110

Dear President Simitian and Members of the County Board of Supervisors,

I am writing to express my support for Stanford's proposed General Use Permit and request that you reach consensus with the university on a related Development Agreement and a set of reasonable and feasible Conditions of Approval. The General Use Permit will allow Stanford to develop the next generation of academic facilities that will foster its academic mission and leadership.

As the father of a daughter who is currently at Gunn High School and another daughter who recently graduated there, I appreciate the challenges that city and county planners have to deal with to ensure that a sustainable and responsible use of space is in place to prevent overcrowding in the schools and safety in the streets. Yet, as a physician scientist and the Associate Director of the Cardiovascular Institute at Stanford, I have seen first-hand the crucial role that research and education space can facilitate the discovery for new therapy to treat heart disease patients like my own and the community surrounding Stanford. In fact, the reason I decide to relocate my research laboratory from Harvard Medical School to Stanford in 2012 is due to the construction of the Lokey Stem Cell Research building (see picture) where stem cell scientists like myself can interact and collaborate closely with other stem cell research colleagues in the same space. This is made possible by the culture of collaboration and collegiality that drives innovative discoveries at Stanford.



Stanford plays an important role in the life of our community by advancing teaching and research, providing world-class health care, inviting its neighbors to enjoy many on-campus amenities and working in the community to support local residents. For example, this past weekend (Oct. 5th, 2019) we hosted a Cardiovascular Institute Open House for the public and residents of nearby community with lectures from physicians

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and scientists from the Institute, tours of our stem cell labs, and engage the public in our research efforts. (see pictures) This event was designed for 40 registrants and we had over 60 people show up due to walk-ins who saw our flier in the hospital or from our advertisements in the libraries and churches nearby, clearly attesting to the high degree of interest in our research and the lectures we provide to the public.

At Stanford, we take on the world's most pressing challenges and develop innovative solutions for the betterment of humankind. We are keenly aware that heart disease remains the number one cause of death in the developed countries like the US. As you all know, Presidential candidate Bernie Sanders recently had a heart attack and had two stents placed in the arteries of his heart. The type of treatment he received is what we as cardiologists do here every day for Palo Alto and Santa Clara County residents regardless of whether the person is Bernie, Joe, Jane, or Peggy. Furthermore, we are developing new state of the art treatments for patients with heart diseases using 3D bioprinting, stem cell tissue engineering, monoclonal antibodies against bad actors causing heart disease, and wearable electronics for detecting and diagnosing earliest signs of heart attack. These new technologies that we create allows Palo Alto and Santa Clara County residents to take advantage of new treatments that even Bernie won't have access to. All of this work requires the availability of space to bring together in the same place the brightest and the hardest working young scientists, many of whom actually grew up as sons and daughters in the community and chose to either

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stay or return to contribute to the work we do here. As you know, over the decades Stanford has been purposefully building spaces to enable the institution stay in the forefront of research and technology in the world. We believe that the direct beneficiaries of the success from our efforts are first, the nearby community and then, the world.

Stanford's Development Agreement proposal reflects the university's commitment to its neighbors and addresses concerns about housing, transportation, and local schools. For Stanford to provide front-loaded community benefits and thousands of units of housing, the university must be confident that it will be able to complete its academic facilities over time and the rules governing future academic campus development will not be changed midway through implementation of a new General Use Permit.

Therefore, I ask that the County engage in constructive Development Agreement discussions with Stanford to provide benefits that address the interests of the community, while providing Stanford the necessary predictability to fulfill its academic mission. The Board should also work with Stanford to make sure that each of the conditions is clear and sets an objective, reasonable standard for compliance. It's impossible to anticipate every impact of development, but Stanford has proven to be a responsible neighbor and steward of its lands. I believe that further discussion is to all of our benefit especially if the rules governing on-campus development support teaching and research and the addition of much-needed housing.

I hope you will support Stanford's future land use plans and approve a General Use Permit and Development Agreement that meet the needs of the community, the County, and Stanford.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,



Sean M. Wu, MD, PhD
Endowed Faculty Scholar of Lucile Packard Foundation
for Children and Child Health Research Institute at Stanford
Associate Professor of Medicine and (by courtesy) Pediatrics
Department of Medicine, Division of Cardiovascular Medicine
Associate Director, Stanford Cardiovascular Institute
Stanford University School of Medicine