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February 20, 2025

To our UC Health community,

With a new federal administration, we've seen an increase in news and policy updates from Washington, D.C., including on issues like health research and public health, many of which require careful evaluation by the University. I'm reaching out to reassure you that the University of California as a system is working diligently to support the important work you do every day and uphold the values that unite us as a community.

Actions to freeze federal funding, staffing and programs from critical institutions such as the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) that support biomedical research and the health of our communities are extremely concerning and potentially put lives at risk.

At NIH, dramatic reductions to the facilities and administrative costs included in our already awarded federal research grants would be devastating to the University's scientific mission. These resources support the infrastructure, equipment, data management, facilities and security that are foundational to the work of pioneering UC research teams. Commitments from the NIH provide researchers with the stability needed for the hard work of setting up, administering and conducting safe and ethical clinical trials for cancer and chronic disease. This work, which has resulted in lifesaving breakthroughs for adults and children across the nation, is at risk should these cuts become reality.

Similarly, the broad staffing cuts we have witnessed at the CDC, along with significant concerns about the timeliness of critical public health updates and correspondence, have created unprecedented uncertainty at a time when our nation is facing significant public health threats from, for example, the highly pathogenic avian influenza.

Together with leadership across the Office of the President, we have been working around the clock to partner with the California Attorney General's Office, the American Association of Medical Colleges, the Association of American Universities and others to address recent executive actions, correct misinformation and defend against attacks on the University's mission of education, research, health care and community impact. Our work includes legal efforts, active engagement and advocacy with policymakers, including both Republican and Democratic members of our state's Congressional delegation, and other communications actions. The University

of California supported, with a declaration, the litigation brought by 22 state attorneys general that resulted in a temporary restraining order pausing the implementation of cuts to the NIH facilities and administrative funds. A hearing on the extension of this restraining order is expected this week. UC is also a party to other litigation that is seeking similar relief for the actions we have seen. Other efforts seek to protect Congressionally mandated programs and committed funding for public health.

Rest assured that the University is engaged on those developments and, as more details become clear, is committed to working through the best ways to address them.

While we will continue to pursue advocacy efforts at the federal level, this is also a moment to strengthen our partnerships locally, particularly with the California Department of Public Health and local health departments, to build resilience. We also honor our students, residents, fellows, researchers, faculty and staff who continue to work unabated to improve and protect the health of adults and children in our communities, in our state, and across our country. And, we stand with our clinical teams who continue to provide exceptional care for all of our patients with dignity and respect.

This is a challenging time for us across the UC Health community. President Drake [has shared that our values and commitment to science and public health have not changed](#), and [this website](#) has been created to provide updates on the timely federal issues impacting the University. The leadership at UCOP and I will provide updates as we continue to navigate these uncharted waters.

Best,

David Rubin, M.D.

Executive Vice President
University of California Health
University of California Office of the President