



NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATURE

February 4, 2020

Dr. Norman E. Sharpless
Director
National Cancer Institute
Building 37, Room 4106C
Bethesda, MD 20892

Dear Dr. Sharpless:

We write to express our support for Stony Brook Medicine's designation as a National Cancer Institute (NCI). Our nation has come so far in 80 years since Congress made the NCI the primary federal agency dedicated to addressing research and training needs for the cause, diagnosis, and treatment of cancer. While 69 NCI designated Cancer Centers now exist throughout the country, the closest clinical NCI for the residents of Long Island is based in New York City.

On average, 17,500 people on Long Island are diagnosed with some type of cancer each year. With a population greater than 21 other states, Long Island needs to provide residents with convenient accessibility to top level research and clinical care rather than having its most vulnerable cancer patients travel long distances for treatments. Receiving an NCI Cancer Center designation will enhance patient care while spurring economic activity in the region.

Stony Brook University has the critical facilities dedicated to cancer focused research including:

- **The Medical and Research Translation (MART) Building:** a 240,000 sq. ft. facility devoted to experimental imaging, biomedical informatics and both basic cancer research and the highest quality clinical care.
- **Institute for Discovery and Innovation in Medicine and Engineering (I-DIME):** a \$75 million, 70,000 square-foot facility, will be a center where cutting edge academic research and data analytic support come together with private sector ingenuity to solve some of the most challenging problems of today and tomorrow. The Schools of Medicine and Engineering will staff the I-DIME building, based on the concept of engineering-driven medicine, which at Stony Brook will focus heavily on cancer medicine.

- **Brookhaven National Laboratory (BNL):** As co-manager of BNL, Stony Brook University has 75 joint appointments with the Lab allowing researchers and others access to the most advanced scientific technologies including the National Synchrotron Light Source II – a \$960 million x-ray facility with the nanoscale resolution needed to foster new discoveries and breakthroughs in critical areas including cancer research.
- **Over 100 faculty members of the Stony Brook Cancer Center:** a major recruitment effort at Stony Brook Medicine over the past six years has yielded a large number of new faculty members devoted to cancer care and biology, to augment the efforts of many existing departments.
- **Nearly \$25M in external funding for cancer research:** obtained almost entirely from the NCI, other NIH Institutes, the NSF and other external funding agencies, these grants support cutting edge research designed to find a cure for the various cancers that affect Long Islanders, New Yorkers, and the entire population.

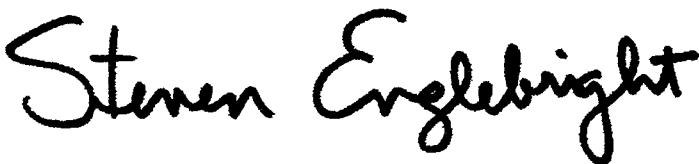
Based on all these assets, Stony Brook Medicine began the drive to become an NCI-designated Cancer Center several years ago, including assembling an external advisory board (EAB) of clinical and research cancer experts, including the Director of the NCI-designated Roswell Park Cancer Center in Buffalo, NY. A recent EAB review of Stony Brook's readiness for designation notes that Stony Brook, out of the other institutions seeking such designation, "has one of the strongest research bases and can demonstrably illustrate that it is making enormous contribution to the oncology field." That same report states that there is a clear expectation of State support for public institutions seeking NCI designated cancer centers.

Accordingly, the State has already committed more than \$1.3 million for the application process, to support clinical trials overseen by high-level clinical researchers, a program that will ensure Stony Brook Medicine meets and exceeds NCI standards and levels of excellence and engagement in both basic and clinical research. Future funding would remain a priority, once designation is granted to Stony Brook, for the duration of the NCI grant.

Once again, we are confident that with NCI designation, Stony Brook Medicine will allow Long Island residents needed accessibility to the highest levels of cancer care and research excellence.

Thank you for your consideration and anticipated support of the application.

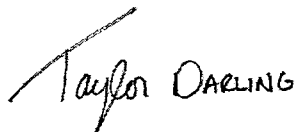
Sincerely,



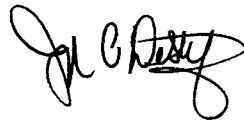
Steve Englebright
Member of Assembly



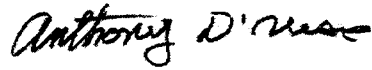
James Gaughran
New York State Senator



Taylor Darling
Member of Assembly



Joseph DeStefano
Member of Assembly



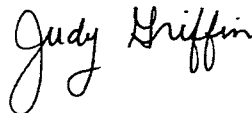
Anthony D'Urso
Member of Assembly



Michael J. Fitzpatrick
Member of Assembly



Andrew R. Garbarino
Member of Assembly



Judy Griffin
Member of Assembly



Kimberly Jean-Pierre
Member of Assembly



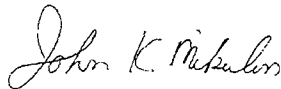
Charles D. Lavine
Member of Assembly



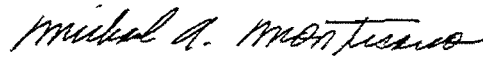
Michael LiPetri
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David G. McDonough
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John K. Mikulin
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Michael Montesano
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Anthony H. Palumbo
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Edward P. Ra
Member of Assembly



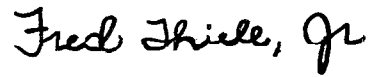
Douglas M. Smith
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Michaëlle C. Solages
Member of Assembly



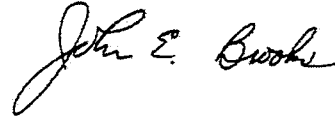
Steve Stern
Member of Assembly



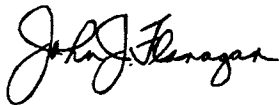
Fred W. Thiele, Jr.
Member of Assembly



Phil Boyle
New York State Senator



John E. Brooks
New York State Senator




John J. Flanagan
New York State Senator



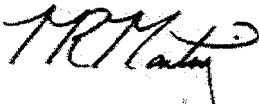
Todd Kaminsky
New York State Senator



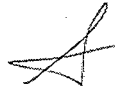
Anna M. Kaplan
New York State Senator



Kenneth P. LaValle
New York State Senator



Monica R. Martinez
New York State Senator



Kevin Thomas
New York State Senator