

APPENDIX E:

SAMPLE E-MAIL TO SOLICIT SIGNATURES ON CONSENSUS STATEMENT

Subject: **Support Access to University-Developed Medicines – CALL FOR SIGNATORIES**

Universities Allied for Essential Medicines has now publicly released the Philadelphia Consensus Statement and invites you to join the initial signatories in their support of the Statement.

You can view the current signatories *and* sign on at: www.essentialmedicine.org/cs.

We hope that this strongly supported statement will convince universities to collectively adopt policies that will facilitate access to university-developed medicines. The Statement has already garnered the support of a number of luminaries – three Nobel Laureates, nine of the highest profile professors of intellectual property law, and even the head of one forward thinking technology transfer office, U.C. Berkeley.

The Consensus Statement proposes three major changes to university policies on health-related innovations:

I) Universities should promote equal access to research II) Universities should promote research and development for neglected diseases III) Universities should measure research success according to impact on human welfare

EQUAL ACCESS: Universities are key developers of drugs, vaccines or diagnostics. They can leverage their intellectual property on these innovations to ensure low-cost access in the developing world. Mechanisms proposed to ensure access include: granting rights to generic companies to manufacture and export university innovations to developing countries, price reductions, non-patenting requirements in low- and middle-income countries, and participation in patent pools.

RESEARCH FOR NEGLECTED DISEASES: Neglected diseases are those for which treatment options are inadequate or do not exist and for which drug-market potential is insufficient to attract a private-sector response. Universities can adopt policies that remove barriers to neglected diseases R&D. Proposed policy changes include: engaging with nontraditional partners, such as public-private partnerships or developing country institutions, creating new opportunities for drug development, and carving out neglected disease research exemptions in any university patents or licenses.

MEASURING RESEARCH SUCCESS BY IMPACT ON HUMAN WELFARE: University technology transfer operations are usually evaluated using simple, quantifiable criteria such as patents applied for and received, licenses granted, and licensing revenue generated. Therefore, the positive social impact of university innovations—particularly in poor countries—goes largely unnoticed.

Universities can rectify this situation by collecting and making public statistics on university intellectual property practices related to global health access and collaborating to develop new technology transfer metrics to better gauge access to public health goods and innovation in neglected-disease research.

The stakes are extremely high: universities can save millions of lives, if they choose to. *You* can help universities make the right choice. We encourage you to take action today.

Visit www.essentialmedicine.org/cs or email Caroline Gallant, caroline.gallant@mail.mcgill.ca to learn more or to sign on.