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Dear Dr. Kateb:

I am writing to you to express my support for the development of the Brain Technology and Innovation Park (BTIP). As you know, UCLA has been a leading institution for both research and treatment of neurological diseases; and California as a whole is at the heart of major developments in this area. Yet the use of many cutting-edge techniques remains a challenge, as there is no coordinated effort designed to translate these advanced technologies to the healthcare problems of many Americans, including from traumatic brain injuries, strokes, and brain cancer. Addressing this need, the BTIP will establish a collaborative nexus of universities, government laboratories, and industry throughout the state of California to transform scientific research into solutions for these and other neurologic disorders.

Novel insights and advances in different technologies (e.g., brain imaging) are transforming our understanding of the human brain. And nascent areas, including stem cell research, nanotechnology, and bioelectronics are changing how we treat related disease. Many of these methods are pioneered at UCLA and other Californian institutions. But ensuring the ongoing innovation of these technologies – and their ultimate use in improving public health – requires cooperation and partnerships beyond the walls of a single campus or company. Continued technical and clinical leadership in neuroscience necessitates collective frame-works like the BTIP, bringing together interdisciplinary expertise and vision from science, medicine, and business to make this possible. It is through investments in such collaborative infrastructure that the United States has made its greatest progress and will remain at the forefront of developing and rapidly disseminating successful technologies that positively shape our world. Through the BTIP, the latest developments from biomedical scientists and engineers can be quickly and efficiently leveraged and shared. But the BTIP is more than just a scientific endeavor: it will realize new business opportunities that will create jobs within emergent industries. And perhaps most importantly, the BTIP, by enabling new biomedical technologies that improve healthcare delivery and long-term outcomes for individuals with neurological diseases, can bring about significant healthcare cost savings.

At the UCLA Medical & Imaging Informatics (MII) Group at UCLA, we work closely with several top scientists and physicians in developing new computational techniques to better diagnose and predict treatment outcomes from "big data." We integrate new types of information from medical imaging, sensors, and clinical observations to improve computer-aided diagnosis and to optimize patient treatment. Our work with our colleagues has led to new methods for the understanding of intracranial aneurysms, stroke therapies, and glioblastoma multiforme (GBM). An important facet of the work we do in UCLA MII is to help integrate these new tools and methods into clinical practice, translating ideas into real-world implementations. It is thus from his perspective that we are excited about the BTIP and its potential to catalyze this translation and look forward to working with it and to accelerate the science and treatment of neurological diseases in the 21st century. We truly believe that there is an urgent need for establishing the Brain Technology and Innovation Park and enthusiastically support the efforts of the Brain Mapping Foundation (BMF), California Neurosurgical Institute (CNI) and Society for Brain Mapping and Therapeutics (SBMT) to establish this park.

We hope that you will also support these efforts to improve healthcare through the BTIP. Please feel free to contact me if you have any additional questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alex Bui". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Alex Bui, PhD

Director, Medical & Imaging Informatics (MII) Group

Director, Medical Informatics Home Area | Graduate Program in Biosciences

Professor, Departments of Radiological Sciences, Bioengineering & Bioinformatics

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David Geffen Chair in Informatics

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cc: *Babak Kateb, MD, Chairman of the Board of Directors, Society for Brain Mapping and Therapeutics (SBMT), President of Brain Mapping Foundation, Scientific Director of California Neurosurgical Institute*