



SCIENCE FOR THE BENEFIT OF HUMANITY

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Jennifer J. Raab, President
Hunter College
695 Park Avenue
New York, New York 10021

Dear Jennifer,

I am writing to express my strong support of Hunter College's proposed Science and Health Professions Building on the Upper East Side. Rockefeller University and Hunter College have a long and established history which has only been strengthened over the years. In addition to the many outstanding Hunter students that have pursued their doctorates at Rockefeller, our respective faculties have formed numerous invaluable research partnerships.

I particularly support Hunter's plan because it represents one of the largest investments in biomedical science and research in recent years and is proposed for the Upper East Side's existing science and medicine corridor, of which Rockefeller University is a member. The location of the proposed Hunter Science building is critical, because it enables Rockefeller to continue the important relationships between members of the two faculties and between faculties and students that have been built over decades, in part because the two institutions share a common geography.

Numerous current Hunter faculty are also adjunct professors at Rockefeller. Several other Rockefeller faculty members frequently collaborate with Hunter faculty, having formed lasting partnership such as the one between Professor Gordon Barr of Hunter and Professor Liebowitz here at Rockefeller, a partnership that has yielded six joint publications. Hunter Professor Cheryl Harding was a postdoctoral student in Professor Peter Marler's lab at Rockefeller and has collaborated with Rockefeller Professors Bruce McEwen and Fernando Nottebohm.

Two outstanding individuals whose work exemplifies the benefits of our partnership are Erich Jarvis, Ph.D. and Vanessa Ruta, Ph.D. Dr. Jarvis graduated from Hunter College in 1988 and went on to earn his doctorate at Rockefeller in 1995, studying with Dr. Fernando Nottebohm. He is currently an Associate Professor for Neurobiology at Duke University, where his work using songbirds to study the microbiology of vocal communication helped to earn him a place in *Popular Science Magazine's* coveted

"Brilliant 10" list of outstanding young scientists. Dr. Ruta graduated from Hunter with a 4.0 in 2000 and entered a doctoral program at Rockefeller University, where she studied with Dr. Roderick MacKinnon. She is currently working at Columbia University with Nobel Prize winner Dr. Richard Axel.

Many joint papers have been published and critical research undertaken as a result of Rockefeller's relationship with Hunter College and we want to ensure that these relationships are enhanced by Hunter's expanded science presence on the East Side. We are very supportive of CUNY's new school of public health which will be housed at Hunter College in the proposed Science and Health Professions building. Rockefeller is doing extensive research on diabetes and obesity and this new school would be a tremendous resource for us on this and other issues.

I am also very pleased that Hunter plans to move its nursing program to the new building from the Brookdale campus. Rockefeller University has a small research hospital, which was founded in 1910 and is devoted solely to patient-oriented research. Hunter College is renowned for its nursing programs and we look forward to working with Hunter on new partnerships that could bring Hunter-trained nurses to Rockefeller's hospital.

Already, Hunter is a major producer of talented young scientists, many of whom are minorities and women. Hunter's science faculty is world-renowned, having produced two of the only four female Nobel laureates. With the creation of a brand new state-of-the-art science building, Hunter promises to become an even greater resource for the scientific community of the Upper East Side.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours sincerely,

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