April 2018

Dear Colleague,

Magee-Womens Research Institute (MWRI), one of the largest research institutes worldwide that focuses on reproductive biology and women’s health, has recently embarked on a new initiative to draw attention to early human development, reproductive sciences and women’s health and wellness. With the support of the MWRI Board of Directors and local foundations, we seek to enhance the scope of this research, accelerate the pace of discovery, and translate the science into better understanding of disease pathogenesis, diagnostics, therapy, and disease prevention, nationally and internationally.

On October 9-10, 2018, we will convene the inaugural “Magee-Womens Research Summit” at the Pittsburgh Convention Center. This international meeting will serve as a premier forum for scientific exchange and, importantly, visionary discussions. We hope that it will also stimulate junior scholars to pursue research in this area. By engaging top scientists and thought leaders in the field, we hope to promote a transdisciplinary approach to reproductive sciences and women’s health. The program will center on three themes: the impact of 9 months of pregnancy on 90+ years of health and wellness (“9-90”); Sex differences, beyond X and Y; and Aging - reimagined. A number of eminent scientists have agreed to present their research and share their insights on the determinants of early human development and the role of these in health and wellness across the lifespan. Among them are Lee Hood (Former President, Institute for Systems Biology, Seattle), Diana Bianchi (Director, NICHD), Dennis Lo (Li Ka Shing Institute of Health Sciences, Chinese U of Hong Kong), Ralph Snyderman (Chancellor Emeritus, Duke U SoM), Jerome F. Strauss, III (Former Dean and Executive VP for Medical Affairs, Virginia Commonwealth U SoM), Jeremy Berg (Editor, Science), Subra Suresh (President of Nanyang Technological U, Singapore), Arthur Levine (Dean, U of Pittsburgh SoM), Claire Pomeroy (President, The Lasker Foundation), Kent Thornburg (Director of the Center for Developmental Health, Oregon Health Sciences U), Keith Godfrey (Director, Centre for Developmental Origins of Health and Disease, U of Southampton, UK), Lou Muglia (Co-Director, Perinatal Institute, Director, Center for Prevention of Preterm Birth, Cincinnati Children’s Hospital), Michelle Williams (Dean, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health), E. Albert Reece (Dean, U of Maryland SoM), Marcia Stefaniick (Director, Stanford Women and Sex Differences in Medicine Center), Margaret McCarthy (President, Organization for the Study of Sex Differences), and others.

A major event at the Summit will be the awarding of the first Magee Prize, a $1 million prize. This award will support a 2-3 year collaborative research program on an innovative transdisciplinary project in the field of reproductive sciences and women’s health, proposed jointly by an investigator located outside of Pittsburgh and anywhere in the world and a Magee-Womens investigator. For more details about the funds and the personal awards to the top applicants, see mageesummit.org/prize.

We hope you will attend the Summit and submit a proposal for the Prize. This initiative will contribute to the national agenda on early human development, reproductive biology, women’s health and wellness across the lifespan, and will harness the power of scientific investigation to enhance the wellness of all humankind.

Please see mageesummit.org/ for Summit and Prize information, and share this invitation with your colleagues.

Sincerely,

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