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To: Interested Parties

From: Katie Lapp, Executive Vice President

Re: Update on science site in Allston and next steps

In September 2011, the University endorsed the recommendations of the Harvard Allston Work Team, outlined a vision for near term development, and reaffirmed its commitment to science in Allston.

The Health and Life Science Center will represent the single largest investment in a science facility ever made by Harvard, and the biggest investment in science space envisioned for at least the next decade.

Accordingly, the President and new provost, Alan Garber, felt it imperative to conduct a robust review of and update plans for academic programming contemplated for the Health and Life Science Center. Provost Garber's review involved meetings with science Deans, faculty, members of the administration, colleagues at Harvard's affiliated hospitals, and alumni in relevant fields.

Late last month, Provost Garber and I shared with the Harvard Corporation the updated plans for academic programming and academic planning for the Health and Life Science Center in Allston – a critical step towards recommencing construction on the science site. It is our plan to proceed apace toward recommencing work on the building, and to finance the development project with a mix of funding strategies including philanthropy.

Attached is a summary of the programmatic components identified for the Health and Life Science Center and an overview of the next steps toward development activity on the site. As you will see, stem cell science has been reaffirmed an important programmatic component for the building, as previously envisioned. In addition, new teams of scientists in the fields of engineering and applied sciences are now included in the building plan.

We envision the Health and Life Science Center as a hub of 21st century learning, collaboration, innovation and growth. Our team looks forward to discussing this development over the next few months as we move toward recommencing construction. I encourage you to visit our website www.evp.harvard.edu/allston.

Health and Life Science Center: Academic Programming

The Health and Life Science Center was envisioned by the Harvard Allston Work Team as a space that would build on the innovative culture of the i-lab and Harvard Business School, and house research and academic programs in science and engineering with an emphasis on innovative interdisciplinary fields.

The building will be research-intensive, science focused, and innovation driven. It will be populated by faculty who are convinced that co-location with other key disciplines will not only enhance their work, but will lead to productive new paths of inquiry and accelerate discoveries that will translate to real-world applications on a much shorter time horizon. The Health and Life Science Center will also anchor a potential collaborative community for business, investment capital, research and science development in the area.

Each of the cutting-edge research programs co-locating in the new science building will have an integral educational component. Two programs that will be housed in the new science building are:

Stem cell science. Primarily made up of faculty from Harvard's inter-school Department of Stem Cell and Regenerative Biology (SCRB), and additional Harvard Stem Cell Institute researchers, this group is focused on advancing research and education about the maintenance and repair of vertebrate tissues. The group uses these aspects of biology to inform the understanding of human diseases, and they intend to use advances in stem cell biology to develop new treatments and cures for human disease. Members of the stem cell science group include faculty, post-doctoral fellows, graduate students, and professional support staff.

Engineering and physical sciences with direct application to biological and life sciences. This group will be made up of faculty members from the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences, and related Faculty of Arts and Sciences departments. It will include a mix of wet and dry lab experimentalists, as well as applied mathematicians and theorists. It is likely that the Cambridge-shared platforms of the Wyss Institute for Biologically Inspired Engineering would be included in this move, as many of the core faculty of the Wyss Institute in Cambridge are among SEAS faculty who would move into the new building.

While SCRB and Engineering and physical sciences with applications to biological life sciences will be at the core of the new building, the Provost's review also identified other entities that will continue to be explored for similar co-location because of the clear contribution they might make to the furtherance of the science.

For example, new and emerging tools in the field of imaging are already key resources utilized by biologists and engineers at the forefront of cutting edge science through the development of the next generation of integrative methods and tools that enable multi-scale imaging based research. We will continue to explore how imaging and other sciences might, as possible cohabitants, add to the dynamism of this new center for scientific innovation.

Building the Health and Life Science Building: Next Steps

Approximately 500 scientists and support staff will serve as the inaugural core of the Health and Life Science Center in Allston. Space planning specialists and architects will be engaged to review the configuration of the physical structure and, as the Work Team recommendations stated, to “maximize available science square footage and be flexible enough to accommodate a range of possible uses” - accommodating lab scientists in several fields in flexible, state-of-the-art, modern labs designed with an eye toward collaboration and mindful of sustainability practices. To accommodate the programmatic components envisioned for the site, it is estimated that the building could range in size from 500,000 to 600,000 square feet. Details about the new building – size, scale, footprint – will be determined in the coming months as outlined below.

In addition to significant lab space, the building will specifically support teaching and will include seminar rooms, classroom space, and undergraduate teaching laboratories. Students will benefit from exposure to and participation in a collaborative, multidisciplinary research experience without department or school boundaries.

We also anticipate the facility will incorporate “innovation space,” allowing scientists and researchers to interact with various points on the innovation chain and encouraging the development of start-ups including companies, social ventures, and other new organizations that build upon Harvard-generated research.

The BRA approved the Science project in 2007 as an amendment to the University’s Institutional Master Plan. As the program and design of the building progresses the extent of review and re-permitting will be determined.

Assuming a smooth public review process, early site work is anticipated to commence in late 2013, and construction could commence during 2014.

Harvard is undertaking several next steps to reach this goal:

Building and space programming: Initiated

The University is reviewing the building design and making changes in order to meet the demands and needs of the new vision and programming. Space planners are engaged in a process. Building and space programming is expected to conclude by fall 2012.

Architectural design and Regulatory Review: Spring 2013

Following the programming efforts, the University will initiate any architectural design changes to the permitted building and the regulatory review.

- Through spring of 2013, the University will evaluate the current approved facility, in light of the new program direction, including modifications that may be necessary to accommodate the stem cell science and bioengineering envisioned for the site.

- The University will engage with the BRA and other agencies necessary to make this and other process determinations as we move forward, and will remain in regular communication with the community throughout.

Early site work: Targeted for late 2013

Harvard will begin preparing the Western Avenue foundation for construction of the Health and Life Science Center. Some examples of early site work include:

- Removal of temporary structures for entry and egress
- Removal of top section of the slurry wall which was part of a temporary earth support system
- Prepare ground floor slab to receive buildings and landscaping

Construction on the Health and Life Science Center in 2014