

**Congress of the United States**  
Washington, DC 20510

September 7, 2022

Lawrence A. Tabak, D.D.S., Ph.D.  
Acting Director  
National Institutes of Health  
9000 Rockville Pike  
Bethesda, Maryland 20892

Dear Acting Director Tabak:

As Representatives of the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> Congressional Districts of Texas, we are pleased to support UT Health San Antonio's (UTHSA) application for the renewal of the Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) and its academic home, the Institute for Integration of Medicine and Science (IIMS). Continuing the National Institutes of Health's funding for the CTSA program will significantly advance the biomedical and healthcare sectors of the regional economy. The potential \$39.5 million over the next seven years will enhance both academic and community-level clinical research, which will improve the health and quality of life of our residents. The emphasis UTHSA's CTSA program places on our uninsured, under-insured, rural, and minority populations is particularly impactful.

In learning about IIMS initiatives within our communities through ongoing work with Translational Advisory Boards (TABs), we are impressed by the capacity of these groups to bring about change in their local communities through CTSA-supported translational research projects. We are especially excited about the active TABs within our districts, including those in Bexar, Atascosa, Medina, Frio, La Salle, and Maverick counties. Community-identified health priorities (e.g., diabetes, obesity, cancer, liver disease, dementia, COVID-19) are targeted for study and intervention, some of which are supported through the CTSA / IIMS Community Engagement Pilot Project program.

We are confident the community linkages being forged through CTSA initiatives will create many opportunities for improving regional health through the combined resources and technological expertise of participating organizations. If awarded, UTHSA's CTSA program will provide tremendous support toward growth of bioscience research, healthcare capacity, and public health programs in San Antonio and the South Texas and Border region. We encourage your favorable consideration for this request. Please do not hesitate to contact our offices if we could be of further assistance.

Sincerely,



Henry Cuellar, Ph.D.  
U.S. Congressman  
28<sup>th</sup> District of Texas



Tony Gonzales  
U.S. Congressman  
23<sup>rd</sup> District of Texas