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March 13, 2020

UCSF Office of Research Open Letter to Research Sponsors and Collaborating
Institutions

RE: UCSF Interim Research Policies due to COVID-19

Dear Sponsors and Collaborators,

The UCSF Office of Research has issued important notices in response to the current, and developing impact of the COVID-19 outbreak on our research, medical and student communities. These notices include a policy on human subjects-related research visits to UCSF campuses posted on the official [UCSF coronavirus website](#).

With the ongoing impact of COVID-19 related activities, faculty and managers of all laboratories and research facilities across UCSF are actively addressing significant disruption to operations.

The [Interim UCSF Policy on Human Subjects-Related Research Visits at San Francisco Campuses during COVID-19 Outbreak](#), posted on March 11th, 2020, includes measures that provide COVID-19 mitigation guidance and recommends conducting research visits remotely, whenever feasible. In-person research visits are only permitted if deemed to be essential to the health/well-being of the study participant.

Changes made to research in response to a public health threat can be made without first obtaining IRB review and approval provided that the change in the research was made to mitigate apparent immediate hazards to the subject. It is noted, however, that this approach is limited to the activities identified in the Interim Policy, and applies to UCSF IRB-reviewed studies affected by the UCSF Public Health Mandate.

We ask for your understanding as we navigate the COVID-19 outbreak and are grateful for your continued support and partnership.

Sincerely,

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