

Statements of International Support

for the

Institute for Breast Cancer Research and Dr. Tak Mak

Dr. Rolf Zinkernagel

Nobel Prize Laureate

Institute for Experimental Immunology

Zurich

This letter of enthusiastic support for the nomination of Dr. Tak Mak as head of the new institute devoted exclusively

to research into breast cancer at the Princess Margaret Hospital in Toronto. He is the co-discover of the T cell receptor

and highly recognized internationally.

I have known Dr. Mak for the past twenty years or so (and I) have collaborated with him and his lab in several aspects

of T cell (research.) In addition, we have exchanged many PhD and postdoctoral fellows during this period of time to

mutual profit of both labs. In addition, I have known Dr. Mak as a CEO of a large research group at the AMGEN

Institute and have visited him and his institution several times. He is a charismatic, enthusiastic, productive, intelligent

and creative scientist combined with conviction and leadership. Therefore I do not hesitate to recommend him highly

and without reservations for such a grand task as you propose.

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Dr. Jean-François Bach

Past President, Necker Hospital

Paris

Breast cancer has become one of the major scourges of public health in Western countries. It is crucial that major

efforts be developed in a trans-disciplinary fashion to find new methods for early diagnosis and efficacious treatment.

The Institute headed by (Dr.) Mak represents a unique opportunity to gather together the expertise of highly talented

scientists to approach the problem of breast cancer in all its dimensions with a new spirit. It is of primary importance

that this effort, which concerns everyone, be dealt with in tight conjunction between the scientific community and the

public. We must be grateful to (Dr.) Tak Mak for having conceived of and put together such a remarkable endeavour.

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Dr. David Sachs

Professor of Surgery (Immunology), Harvard Medical School;

Director, Transplantation Biology Research Center, Massachusetts General Hospital

Boston

In my opinion, Dr. Tak Mak is one of the world's outstanding scientists in the field of immunology. His contributions

to the molecular biology of the immune system have been enormous, and his current application of molecular

techniques to the study of tumor biology, promises to bring similarly important advances to this field. The new

Institute he is founding will be poised to take advantage of these advances for applications to the diagnosis and

treatment of breast cancer. An example of Dr. Mak's outstanding leadership is his intent to bring excellent young

scientists like Pam Ohashi, Lea Harrington, and Wen-Chen Yeh to this Institute. I am convinced that this will be a

highly productive and successful new enterprise and I support Dr. Mak and the establishment of this new Institute for

Breast Cancer Research, with the highest enthusiasm.

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Dr. Joseph Martin

Dean, Harvard Medical School

Boston

I am delighted to convey my strong support of the efforts of Dr. Tak Mak to establish the new Institute for Breast

Cancer Research in association with The Princess Margaret Hospital Foundation. Dr. Mak is a widely recognized and

highly respected researcher. Under his leadership, the new Institute is destined to make significant contributions to

research in the field of breast cancer.

* * * Dr. John Mendelsohn

President, M.D. Anderson Cancer Center

Houston

I am delighted to learn that Dr. Tak Mak will be the leader of a new Breast Cancer Research Institute at the Princess

Margaret Hospital. He is a pioneer in basic research with a commitment to translating science into new therapies for

patients. The citizens of Toronto and Canada will benefit greatly from this expansion of opportunities for him to guide

the future of breast cancer research at your fine institution.

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Dr. Harold Varmus

Nobel Prize Laureate

President, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center

New York

All of us in the medical research community welcome the announcement of a new Canadian institute for the study of

breast cancer, under the direction of the eminent scientist, Tak Mak. Dr. Mak's discoveries about cancer viruses, the

immune system, and disease mechanisms are widely known and his commitment to breast cancer research is

compelling. We anticipate great strides towards the control of this disease as a result of your new endeavor.

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Dr. Alan R. Hudson, OC

President and CEO, Cancer Care Ontario

Toronto

Cancer Care Ontario is delighted to hear that world-renowned scientist Dr. Tak Mak will lead the Institute for Breast

Cancer Research at Princess Margaret Hospital. Our intent is to cooperate with this new Institute in every way possible.

Dr. Tak Mak will stand on the top of a pyramid comprised of scientists and clinicians at Princess Margaret Hospital,

with very strong support from the Provincial Agency advising the government on cancer care in Ontario, Cancer Care

Ontario. We are very optimistic that this extraordinary powerful arrangement will lead us closer to conquering breast

cancer.

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Dr. Carlos Martinez-A.

President, Council for Medical and Natural Sciences and Arts of Spain,

Madrid

I am pleased to be able to write a note in support of Dr. Tak W. Mak's candidacy for directorship of the Institute for

Breast Cancer at Princess Margaret Hospital. Tak Mak dedicated many years of untiring work to developing and

coordinating several excellent lines of scientific research in association with the Amgen Institute. New initiatives must

now be undertaken to assure the continuity of this important research into in vivo genetic approaches for diagnostics

and to develop new leads for the future. I can think of no better candidate than Tak Mak, and wholeheartedly support

his nomination.

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Dr. Hans Wigzell, PhD

Past Principal, Karolinska Institute

Former Chair, Nobel Prize Committee

Stockholm

The creation of a specific institute for research into breast cancer in Toronto headed by Dr Tak Mak is to be strongly

supported for several reasons. Firstly, our understanding of the genetic and molecular basis of breast cancer is entering

into a most exciting phase likely to provide for more efficient diagnosis and treatment of this disease. Secondly, Dr

Tak Mak is one of the world's absolute top scientists in the field of basic research of cancer and its varying underlying

molecular causes. Thirdly, the leadership of Dr. Mak will be guaranteed to be highly focused on the disease of breast

cancer due to his personal experiences. A breast cancer institute of this kind created by the Princess Margaret Hospital

Foundation and lead by Dr. Mak is thus likely to be a significant contributor in the global arena in the fight against this

disease.

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