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SAINT LOUIS
UNIVERSITY

Office of the Vice President, Research

August 7, 2013

Peter M. Heimlich

[REDACTED]
Duluth, GA 30096

Dear Mr. Heimlich:

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your June 20, 2013 letter in which you discuss Saint Louis University's relationship with Dr. Xiaoping Chen and the Guangzhou Institute for Biomedicine and Health (GIBH). In this letter I wish to clarify the nature of this relationship.

In 2011, Saint Louis University signed an agreement with GIBH to collaborate on a preclinical anti-malarial drug discovery project. The goal of this project is to identify inhibitors of a class of enzymes called plasmepsins that are only expressed by the parasite that causes malaria. Selective inhibitors of plasmepsins may be useful as a treatment for drug-resistant malaria that affects much of the world, but is especially prevalent in the developing world. This research project does not involve testing on humans subjects. Dr. Chen leads the lab at GIBH responsible for testing the inhibitors for their ability to kill the malaria-causing parasite in isolated red blood cells. This work is done in mice, using standard procedures approved for use at labs around the world.

The University, through its Center for World Health and Medicine, is dedicated to the discovery and development of safe, effective and affordable therapies for malaria and other diseases, especially those that afflict the poor and underserved. We hope that the continued pursuit of improved treatments for drug-resistant malaria ultimately will benefit the many people across the globe who now are at risk.

We also hope that this letter serves to explain our stance adequately. Saint Louis University will have no additional information to share with you on this matter.

Sincerely,

Raymond Tait, Ph.D.
Vice President for Research

cc:

Saint Louis University Office of the President
Saint Louis University Office of the General Counsel