

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Office of the Provost and Vice Chancellor  
for Academic Affairs  
Swanlund Administration Building  
601 East John Street  
Champaign, IL 61820



**Revised\***

September 15, 2017

**Health Sciences Strategy Task Force**

Neal Cohen, IHSI Director, *Chair*  
Reggie Alston, Kinesiology and Community Health  
Stephen Boppart, Electrical and Computer Engineering  
Martin Burke, Chemistry  
Roy Campbell, Computer Science  
Sharon Donovan, Food Science and Human Nutrition  
John Erdman, Food Science and Human Nutrition  
Tim Fan, Veterinary Clinical Medicine  
Barbara Fiese, Human Development and Family Studies  
Martha Gillette, Cell and Developmental Biology  
Craig Gundersen, Agricultural and Consumer Economics  
Wendy Heller, Psychology

**Kesh Kesavadas, Industrial and Enterprise Systems Engineering\***

King Li, Carle Illinois College of Medicine  
Brent Roberts, Psychology  
Sue Schantz, Comparative Biosciences  
Jim Slauch, Microbiology  
Brad Sutton, Bioengineering  
Derek Wildman, Molecular and Integrative Physiology  
Jeff Woods, Kinesiology and Community Health

Dear Colleagues:

The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign has seen tremendous change and progress in the last three years in the health arena. The establishment of the Interdisciplinary Health Sciences Initiative (IHSI) at Illinois as a campus-wide support entity for health-related research activities, the creation of the Carle Illinois College of Medicine, the maturation of the Mayo Clinic and Illinois Alliance for Technology-Based Health Care, our expanding partnerships with OSF, and emerging uses of big data and data analytics to advance medicine and health are all notable achievements in our efforts to meet the health-related goals of the university's 2013-2016 strategic plan.

To further build on this progress, to contribute to our next phase of strategic planning, and to create the best possible foundation for future success in this area, we are initiating the development of a comprehensive strategy for health sciences research, education and engagement. Based on consultation with campus leadership, including Deans and Institute Directors with who you are associated, you have been identified to contribute critically to this process by serving on the Health Sciences Strategy Task Force. IHSI Director Neal Cohen has agreed to lead this Task Force, whose efforts will culminate in a report to the Chancellor and Provost.


In carrying out its strategy making effort, the task force should explicitly address the following:

- In what areas does Illinois have the greatest opportunity to positively impact state, national and global health through research, education and engagement?
- What opportunities and challenges do we face in health-related research and education over the next five to ten years?
- What specific actions would be most effective in realizing our potential in health education, research and engagement? What new investments would be necessary to implement those actions? Please distinguish short (24 months), medium (3-5 years), and long-term horizons (5-10 years) for the actions.
- How can we better leverage our research strengths to enhance the university's educational mission in health-related fields?
- The area of health presents many opportunities for community engagement. How best can we undertake the engagement of our local community through the health sciences?

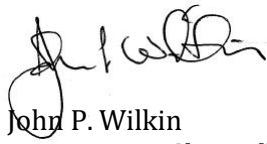
In producing the comprehensive strategy, we ask that you develop, at the outset of your efforts, a process for engaging key internal and external stakeholders and drawing on the diversity of disciplinary expertise on the campus.

We would like to receive your report no later than December 1, 2017. We appreciate your willingness to serve on this task force.

Sincerely,



Robert J. Jones  
Chancellor



John P. Wilkin  
Interim Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Provost

c: Peter Schiffer, Vice Chancellor for Research