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June 9, 2017

Thaddeus G. Golos, Ph.D.  
Department of Comparative Biosciences  
University of Wisconsin-Madison

**Regarding:** Letter of Support for R01 Application

Dear Ted,

I confirm my enthusiastic support to collaborate on this R01 proposal being prepared at the University of Wisconsin-Madison to study Zika virus infection of pregnant rhesus macaques. Your proposal to study 20 pregnancies during the month after infection will provide the much needed study to understand the pathway by which the virus traffics from maternal blood to the maternal-fetal interface, and across the placenta and fetal membranes to establish infection in the fetus.

As you know, I have broad experience in placental pathology, not only in human placentation, but also with rodent, and nonhuman primate models. I am also currently collaborating with scientists at the *Oregon National Primate Research Center* in their studies of a variety of experimental conditions with pregnant rhesus monkeys, including Zika virus infection. In fact, our group has a manuscript in preparation to describe our preliminary findings from 6 infected animals compared with negative controls.

Our preliminary work suggests that Zika virus infection may affect uterine spiral artery remodeling, which could explain why Zika is associated with an increased risk of preterm birth in humans. The study you propose in this R01 will directly examine the impact of infection in real time at the maternal-fetal interface, which cannot be studied in human pregnancy. I look forward to the success of your proposal.

Sincerely yours,

Redacted by agreement