

August 11, 2020

Dear SPaRC Awards Committee:

In the challenging, early days of COVID-19, I had several discussions with Lyndon Goodly, the Executive Associate Vice Chancellor for Research and Innovation, and Director of the Division of Animal Resources, about contingency planning for animal care in our labs and research spaces. Animal research is a highly regulated part of our research enterprise, and no one understands the complexities better than Dr. Goodly. Delivering care to campus research and agricultural animals, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, is a significant responsibility that can't just stop, even for a pandemic.

As the situation worsened and we received direction from the Governor that we needed to shelter in place, my leadership team and I met, daily, to respond to the evolving situation. Dr. Goodly frequently called in while en route to one of the facilities to check on the team. His careful, phased planning and the hard work and flexibility of the DAR staff demonstrated an extraordinary level of service and show just how dedicated and careful the university's animal care teams really are.

There are many things about the pandemic that keep me up at night, but the health and safety of our research animals and the people who take care of them are not among them. During these extraordinary times, the DAR team has shown us extraordinary professionalism, service, and dedication, and I would like to recognize their commitment by nominating them for a SPaRC Collaboration Award.

Sincerely,



Susan A. Martinis  
Vice Chancellor for Research and Innovation  
Stephen G. Sligar Professor of Molecular and Cellular Biology  
Professor of Biochemistry