



Princess Margaret Hospital
University Health Network

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.

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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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