



June 24, 2014

Dr. Mark S.F. Clarke, Ph.D.
Associate Vice-Chancellor for Technology Transfer, UH System
Associate Vice-President for Technology Transfer, UH
University of Houston
Houston, TX 77204-3010

Dear Dr. Clarke,

In regard to the UH proposal to NSF for an I-Corps Site, project titled "STEM-Business (STEM-B) – the Fifth Element of Technology Innovation, The Houston Technology Center (HTC) is happy to provide this letter of support for this project. Our support would include providing an HTC representative to serve on a UH I-Corps Site Advisory Board, as well as, to assist UH in identifying mentors and internship or "entrepreneur in residence" opportunities for entrepreneurial teams that will be created by the program.

Named by *Forbes'* as one of "Ten Technology Incubators Changing the World," and as one of "Twelve Business Incubators Changing the World," the Houston Technology Center is the largest technology business incubator and accelerator in Texas, advancing the commercialization of emerging technology companies in the greater Houston area. HTC serves as the nexus of new ideas, technological innovation, and entrepreneurship. Each day, the staff and partners of the Houston Technology Center work closely with entrepreneurs and startup companies providing them with in-depth strategic and tactical business guidance, fundraising advice, and connecting them to opportunities, allies, and capital. As a catalyst for change, economic growth and development, HTC's focus is to assist in the acceleration and commercialization of emerging technology companies. Each company is treated individually according to their position in the Acceleration Pathway and their unique needs. As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, HTC assists Houston-based entrepreneurs within several key sectors: energy, information technology, life sciences, nanotechnology, and NASA/aerospace.

The Houston Technology Center is generously supported by more than 300 of Houston's leading corporations and academic institutions, as well as the Greater Houston Partnership, Texas Medical Center, NASA-Johnson Space Center and the City of Houston. Since 1999, HTC has provided feedback to well over 1,000 companies and coached more than 250 companies.

HTC has been a collaborative partner of UH on a number of innovation and entrepreneurship initiatives. A transformative program described by this proposal combining translational research, technology transfer and entrepreneurship could result in company formation deal flow that fits the HTC mission and vision - to enable and accelerate the growth of emerging technology companies for the purpose of creating jobs and promoting economic development in the greater Houston area, as well as, engaging HTC as the hub for Texas Gulf Coast region's resources for building and supporting emerging technology companies.

Kind regards.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Deborah Mansfield". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Deborah Mansfield
Director, Life Sciences Acceleration Program