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February 20, 2020

Wuhan Union Hospital
HUST (Huazhong University of Science and Technology)
Tongji Medical College

Dear President Chen, President Hu, Prof Xie, and Prof Dong,

On behalf of The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University, Lifespan, and the Brown divisions of cardiology and cardiac surgery, we would like to send our thoughts, prayers, strength, courage, support, and friendship to you and your faculty, staff, students, and patients at Wuhan Union Hospital, HUST, and Tongji Medical College.

We know we cannot comprehend or even appreciate the challenges and hardship you must all be going through at this time. We want you to know that we treasure our relationship and academic collaboration with you and your great institutions and hospital. The Wuhan Union Hospital-HUST-Lifespan-Brown Cardiovascular Academic Program is a very special and strong collaboration. This academic program and collaboration dates back to 2016 when Drs Wang, Haines, and Sellke travelled to Wuhan to meet with senior faculty. It continued with multiple visits and faculty exchanges and culminated with several historic milestones. The first was when President Hu of Wuhan Union Hospital and President Babineau of Lifespan came together at Rhode Island Hospital to sign an official academic memorandum of understanding between our institutions and hospitals. Finally, in 2019 an official MOU was signed in Wuhan between HUST and Brown. These momentous occasions demonstrate the strength, importance, and significance of our relationship with these institutions, their faculty, staff, and students.

Over the last four years we have had the good fortune to witness several faculty visits from Providence to Wuhan and faculty visits from Wuhan to Providence. Each was a huge success and involved lectures, workshops, and presentations at grand rounds and international conferences. Cardiology, echocardiography, and cardiac surgery faculty from Wuhan and Brown/Lifespan have also been actively collaborating on research projects, manuscripts, and book chapters. Lifespan and Brown started hosting the first Wuhan echocardiography research fellow in June, 2019 and we look forward in the future to hosting a second Wuhan research fellow in Prof Frank Sellke's lab.

Our message is be safe, be strong, have courage, and know that your colleagues and friends in the city of Providence are thinking of you every day and hoping this time of extreme hardship will pass swiftly so that we can continue on our path to building a better future for our patients, our students, our staff, and our citizens.

With the warmest regards,

Brown Co-Directors of the Wuhan – Brown Program:

Philip Haines, MD
Director, Structural and Interventional
Echocardiography

Frank Sellke, MD
Chief, Cardiac Surgery

Lifespan and Brown Senior Faculty:



Timothy J. Babineau, MD
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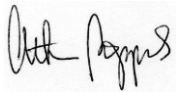
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