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**Statement by UCSF Chancellor Sam Hawgood, MBBS, in
response to HHS' action on fetal tissue research**

Wednesday, June 5, 2019

UCSF strongly opposes today's abrupt decision by the Health and Human Services Department (HHS) to discontinue intramural fetal tissue research by scientists at the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The efforts by the administration to impede this work will undermine scientific discovery and the ability to find effective treatments for serious and life-threatening disease.

Fetal tissue is used in important research aimed at discovering cures for illnesses that affect the lives of millions of Americans, including Alzheimer's, spinal cord injury, eye disease and HIV.

At UCSF, today's action ends a 30-year partnership with the NIH to use specially designed models that could be developed only through the use of fetal tissue to find a cure for HIV. UCSF exercised appropriate oversight and complied with all state and federal laws. We believe this decision to be politically motivated, shortsighted and not based on sound science.

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