

## ADVOCACY INVOLVEMENT

Limit is 1 page

- A. **Advocacy Organization/Advocate(s) Selection and Engagement to Date.** (Explain why the advocacy organization and the advocate(s) are appropriate for the proposed research project. Detail your interactions with the advocate(s) and their organization in preparing this application.)

My laboratory works with Susan Samson, a Breast Cancer Advocate who has been working with the Breast Oncology Program (BOP) at UCSF for about twelve years, and who currently serves as the advocate on the Breast Oncology Site Committee and the UCSF Breast SPORE Advocacy Core as a presenter/participant at national meetings. We have worked together through the BOP and the Bay Area Physical Sciences in Oncology Center for the last year and more. She has attended one group meeting and met most of my team here at LBNL. We hold occasional conference calls and we set aside time to meet at conferences when we attend in common. Susan is an excellent communicator and I have found that Susan's input in my writing has been invaluable in some cases. Susan shares our belief that there is a need to identify rational prophylactic and preventative strategies that can reduce the incidence of age-related breast cancers.

- B. **Advocate(s) Role in Proposed Research.** (Describe the role of the advocate(s) in the project design, implementation and dissemination of results; be specific.)

Susan will work with my lab to raise public awareness of our theoretical approach to prevention, to promote collaboration within the patient advocacy community, and to assist with balancing our responsibly for translating our scientific goals into the clinic. Susan will participate in writing the research related to this grant for publication, and will share co-authorship if her contribution is mutually deemed to be sufficient. Susan will attend group meetings when data from this grant are presented and when she is able to attend.

- C. **Meeting and Payment Plans.** (Note plans for when and where the advocate(s) and research team will meet and how you will communicate between meetings. Specify the basis and mechanism for paying the advocate(s) for time and effort and for reimbursing their expenses.)

Susan will attend the CBCRP symposium together with me. We will communicate on an intermittent basis over the phone and email and at co-attended meetings, as we have done continuously for over a year. I think one Susan's strengths is her ability to explain the role of a Breast Cancer Advocate in basic research, and I will invite her to give a seminar at LBNL on the topic of advocacy in basic research, for which she will receive a \$200 honorarium.

## Letter of Commitment

Date November 27, 2013

**Advocate(s)**

Susan Samson  
UCSF Advocacy Core

**Principle Investigator**

Mark LaBarge, PhD  
Lawrence Berkeley National Lab  
1 Cyclotron Rd, Berkeley, CA 94720

We are writing this letter in support of Dr. LaBarge's proposal entitled "Mechanical stressors and age as regulators of telomerase". This project aims to define the mechanism that creates a link between mechanical properties of microenvironments and telomerase activity in healthy human mammary epithelial cells from pre-menopausal women, and to define where the mechanism becomes defective with age and uncoupled upon immortalization.

Dr. LaBarge's work suggests work suggests an entirely new way in which telomerase might be regulated, and importantly, he and Dr. Stampfer have worked together to create a human cell model capable of delineating changes in telomerase regulation that occur as a function of age or immortalization. This is an important advance because telomerase reactivation is a rate-limiting step in cancer progression and this cannot be studied in rodents (which have significant differences in telomerase regulation) or in any of the existing breast cell lines because they are all already immortal, if not malignant. Thus the proposed work stands ready to dissect this regulation process, which will likely lead to generation of entire new classes of prevention based therapeutics.

Susan Samson is a Breast Cancer Advocate, and has been working with the Breast Oncology Program (BOP) at UCSF for about twelve years. She currently serves as the advocate on the Breast Oncology Site Committee where clinical trial protocols and consent forms are reviewed. She also has represented the UCSF Breast SPORE Advocacy Core as a presenter/participant at various national meetings sponsored by the American Association for Cancer Research, Public Responsibility in Medicine and Research, Summit Series on Cancer Clinical Trials, and Physical Sciences Oncology Network. Susan shares the belief that there is a clear a need to develop rational prophylactic and preventative strategies that can reduce vulnerability to cancer.

Dr. LaBarge and Susan Samson have communicated off and on about his projects since 2011, via email, visits to his lab, and discussions at meetings we co-attended for the UCSF BOP and Bay Area PSOC. We have agreed to the following expectations, roles, and duties below.

I, Susan Samson, will:

- Participate in the Mark's group meetings when data related to this proposal are presented, and I will help him and his team better communicate their science for the benefit of the patient community.
- Represent and disseminate the Mark's research interests within the advocacy community.
- Present a seminar on the involvement of advocacy in basic research at LBNL.
- Attend the CBCRP Research Symposium.

I, Mark LaBarge, will:

- Participate in lab meetings together with Susan, and maintain communications with her over phone, email, and at co-attended conferences.
- I will solicit Susan's help in crafting our message when we prepare manuscripts and presentations based on this funded work.
- Susan will be given an honorarium of \$200 for presenting a seminar on the topic of advocacy and basic research partnerships at LBNL.
- I am very excited to continue working with Susan Sampson in her capacity as a Breast Cancer Advocate.

We look forward to working together on the front end on program development. Susan will try to raise public awareness of this novel approach to prevention, promote collaboration within the patient advocacy community, and assist with balancing and responsibly translating these scientific goals into the clinic.

Sincerely,

Susan Samson, Breast Cancer Advocate & Mark LaBarge, PhD, Staff Scientist