

Chan Zuckerberg Biohub – What DOM Faculty Should Know

On September 21st, 2016, Facebook CEO and founder Mark Zuckerberg and pediatrician Priscilla Chan announced a donation of \$600M over 10 years to a tripartite consortium of UCSF, UCB, and Stanford. The gift is part of a \$3B plan with an ambitious goal: to cure, prevent or manage all diseases by the end of the century by accelerating basic science research. The gift will establish a “Biohub”, centered at UCSF but involving all three universities. As a start, the [Chan Zuckerberg Biohub](#) has already launched support of grants for innovative research at the three institutions, and it is building two other programs: The first is an infectious disease initiative that will develop new diagnostic tests, drugs, and vaccines for infectious diseases as well as establish one or more rapid response teams to deal with outbreaks of infectious disease. The second is a program to characterize the features of every cell type in the human body and to assess changes in disease.

The Biohub seeks to unite the efforts of basic scientists and scientists who are studying disease, especially physician scientists who can help to bridge basic science with studies of patients. The UCSF co-director of the Biohub, Joe DeRisi, met in October with the Department of Medicine Research Council to discuss new approaches to forming this bridge. Ideas discussed included (i) expansion of the UCSF Physician Scientist Scholar Program, which provides 5 years of salary and research support to outstanding physician bench scientists who are early in their careers, (ii) support to attract the top physician scientists to the training programs at UCSF, and (iii) formation of a consult service for patients where diagnosis has been difficult and where new technologies may be useful. Importantly, this was only an initial discussion, and other ideas are welcome for future discussion. If you have ideas or questions, please contact Bill Seaman (bseaman@medicine.ucsf.edu), the current DOM Associate Chair for Bench Research.