

THE PROGRESS IN UNDERSTANDING health and disease over the last 70 years has been extraordinary. The options available to physicians for diagnosis and therapy have expanded dramatically, and diseases that were untreatable can now be cured. Today, the promise of even more discoveries, deeper understanding and the ability to tailor treatment to the individual has never been greater. Examples of this potential for extraordinary advances include: the explosion of technologies that are accelerating our knowledge of genes and proteins; the emerging understanding of the interactions between humans and their microbiome; and our growing ability to reprogram cells.

This is all the result of basic and translational biomedical research in the academic environment. Research is being conducted by creative faculty, trainees and students who are driven by a desire to discover, to understand the mysteries of health and disease, to make a difference. The dramatic expansion of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) following World War II provided the funding and impetus for the vast majority of biomedical research and discoveries that helped transform medicine. Over the last decade, however, changes in federal funding priorities led to a flattening of research funding. This has a major impact on our physicians and scientists, and it has caused gifted students to question the wisdom of pursuing careers in scientific research.

Even so, at the University of Michigan Medical School, we are expanding our innovation pipeline by fostering the curiosity, creativity and passion for discovery of our researchers. Research provides hope for those who suffer from disease, offering insight as we strive to create a better future for generations to come. We continue to rely not only on support from the NIH but also from new public-private partnerships and from our generous benefactors. Together this ensures that our research enterprise will remain among the best not only in the United States but the world.

Sincerely,



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