To: Clinical Research Faculty and Staff

From: Samuel G. Armato, III, Ph.D.
Faculty Director, Human Imaging Research Office

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Date: May 8, 2018

Re: Human Imaging Research Office Fee Policy

Over the past several months, the Human Imaging Research Office (HIRO) has worked with its Faculty Oversight Committee and the Office of Shared Research Facilities (OSRF) to evaluate its operation and its cost recovery model. The HIRO is committed to assisting UCM investigators conduct clinical trials and research studies that require medical imaging and to ensuring that all research-related imaging is performed and distributed in compliance with the research protocol, IRB requirements, and HIPAA regulations.

The HIRO is currently providing support for over 300 research studies that are either open or preparing to open for enrollment. Its three full-time staff members are responsible for the majority of its operation: assisting with study initiation and qualification, actively monitoring and providing support for research-related imaging procedures, and providing de-identified image data for local research or for submission to a central lab. Unfortunately, it has become clear that the HIRO’s current fee structure, which has not changed in over four years, is inadequate to support the staff and technology required to achieve appropriate quality and service needs.

We have therefore agreed on a new HIRO fee policy (see attachment) and rate. This policy replaces the previous policy and becomes effective for all new studies beginning July 1, 2018. While this policy includes some increases, several fees remain the same, and one key fee has been reduced in an effort to accommodate a wider range of investigator-initiated research. We will continue to implement various HIRO quality improvement measures including an upgraded web site featuring new tools based on customer feedback and an automated tracking system to reduce the time between the performance of an imaging procedure and its submission to the study sponsor. Although we regret the necessity for increasing the cost of investigational studies to our faculty and sponsors, we believe this will allow the Human Imaging Research Office to continue to provide high quality support to all research that utilizes medical imaging while making the UCM more competitive in the clinical research arena.