

MEMORANDUM

To: University Senate

From: Sue Sutherland, Chair, Council on Academic Affairs

Subject: Proposal to Change the Name of the Institute for Behavioral Medicine Research

Date: October 24, 2025

A PROPOSAL FROM THE COUNCIL ON ACADEMIC AFFAIRS TO CHANGE THE NAME OF THE INSTITUTE FOR BEHAVIORAL MEDICINE RESEARCH TO THE INSTITUTE OF BRAIN, BEHAVIOR AND IMMUNOLOGY

Whereas the current name does not reflect the historic or current research niche of the Institute and therefore is confusing to a variety of audiences; and

Whereas behavioral medicine is its own field that focuses on how behavioral health interventions can modify health, while this new name reflects the niche area of interdisciplinary research in the field of psychoneuroimmunology (how psychology/behavior intersects with the communication between the nervous and immune systems); and

Whereas the name change will minimally impact personnel within or outside the Institute and will not affect programming and thus does not overlap with the interests of other units; and

Whereas the proposal is supported by the members of the Institute, the Dean of the College of Medicine, and the College of Medicine's College Council; and

Whereas the proposal was approved by the Council on Academic Affairs at its meeting on September 17, 2025,:

Now therefore be it resolved that the University Senate approve the proposal to change the name of the Institute for Behavioral Medicine Research to the Institute of Brain, Behavior, and Immunology.