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Dear Jonathan,

I am writing to you in support of the proposal for a new world-class biomedical facility that will host the central hub of the UK Dementia Research Institute (UK DRI) and UCL's Queen Square Institute of Neurology (IoN), on Grays Inn Road, Camden, London.

Dementia is an immense medical need, not only for the patients but also for their family and their environment. To be able to help the millions of people involved, we need to get a better insight into the functioning of the brain in health and in degeneration. The DRI comes at the right moment to capitalize on new disruptive technologies to break the code of the unknown.

Only by building critical mass and by joining forces, we will be able to tackle dementia. It is important to bundle the critical mass locally in state-of-the-art facilities that are attractive to the world best talent to create an inspiring and sprinkling atmosphere, stimulating breakthrough research. By working together we can push forward the international dementia research agenda. By these institutes coming together in one building and strengthening their science and collaboration, external partnerships will greatly benefit.

A new resource of this scale will not only bring local benefits, but will hugely contribute globally. New facilities such as this would be a huge boost in our need to build research capacity worldwide.

In Belgium, we did the same: we bundled our neuroscience research (VIB Centre for Brain and Disease: cfr www.vib.be) into our state-of-the-art building. Ever since the research makes faster progress. The ambition is also to join forces across the channel and intensify our collaborations with the DRI.

It gives us greater opportunity for cross-border collaboration which is essential in bringing solutions and much needed treatments for neurodegenerative diseases.

Science can't happen in isolation. To host international events in dementia care and research with first class conferencing facilities, the new building should be equipped. By connecting to a major home for neuroscience in London we can all work more productively together. The VIB neuroscientists are committed to activate this connection.



Glady available for further consultation, I remain,



Jo Bury
Managing Director VIB

