



Los Angeles County
Board of Supervisors

January 21, 2014

Gloria Molina
First District

Mark Ridley-Thomas
Second District

Zev Yaroslavsky
Third District

Don Knabe
Fourth District

Michael D. Antonovich
Fifth District

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

ADOPTED
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

17 January 21, 2014

Sachi A. Hamai
SACHI A. HAMAI
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Dear Supervisors:

**ACCEPTANCE OF A SOFTWARE DONATION FROM THE NATIONAL
CANCER INSTITUTE SURVEILLANCE EPIDEMIOLOGY AND END
RESULTS PROGRAM
(SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT 1)
(3 VOTES)**

Mitchell H. Katz, M.D.
Director

Hal F. Yee, Jr., M.D., Ph.D.
Chief Medical Officer

Christina Ghaly, M.D.
Deputy Director, Strategic Planning

SUBJECT

Request approval to accept a software donation from the National Institutes of Health, National Cancer Institute Surveillance Epidemiology and End Results Program, via Artificial Intelligence in Medicine, Inc., for the automated selection, encoding and transmission of pathology reports from LAC+USC Medical Center's laboratory to the National Cancer Institute.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:

1. Accept software and no-cost standard installation of Artificial Intelligence in Medicine's (AIM) E-Path system at the LAC+USC Medical Center (LAC+USC MC), for the automated selection, encoding and transmission of pathology reports from LAC+USC MC's laboratory to the National Institutes of Health (NIH), National Cancer Institute's (NCI) Surveillance Epidemiology and End Results (SEER) Program. The donation is provided by the NCI SEER Program, via AIM, valued at \$60,754.

2. Instruct the Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors, to prepare and send a letter of appreciation to NCI for the generous donation of the E-Path software.

313 N. Figueroa Street, Suite 912
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Tel: (213)240-8101
Fax: (213) 481-0503

www.dhs.lacounty.gov

To ensure access to high-quality,
patient-centered, cost-effective health
care to Los Angeles County residents
through direct services at DHS facilities
and through collaboration with
community and university partners.

www.dhs.lacounty.gov



PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

In accordance with County policy, donations in excess of \$10,000 require acceptance by the Board. The donation of the E-Path system will provide automated cancer reporting that reduces the cost of reporting while improving timeliness, accuracy, and completeness of pathology data gathering.

Approval of the first recommendation will allow the facility to accept the donation and enhance the quality of services delivered to patients by quickly and efficiently identifying cancer cases via an automated process, rather than a much slower manual process.

The NCI SEER database is the only comprehensive source of population-based information in the United States that includes the stage of cancer at the time of diagnosis and patient survival data. SEER collects de-identified statistics from regional cancer registries located throughout the country and tracks and predicts the national incidence of cancer and cancer mortality using statistics from these registries.

Pathology reports account for about 95 percent of all definitive cancer diagnoses. As a result, cancer registries rely on pathology reports to spot new cases and determine identifying characteristics of the cancer in order for it to be accurately classified. Historically, data collection for cancer surveillance has been performed manually by laboratory staff, or by travelling registrars who review pathology reports and forward positive test results to a central registry, which is highly labor intensive, and often results in data of varying quality and completeness.

The E-Path system is HIPAA compliant and will increase the efficiency of laboratory and cancer registry staff by substantially reducing the quantity of non-reportable pathology reports staff will be required to review. The vast majority (about 98 percent) of negative reports are excluded by the software, leaving only the definitive positive or dubious results to be reviewed manually.

The second recommendation will acknowledge receipt of the generous donation by the Honorable Board of Supervisors (see Attachment A).

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The recommended actions support Goal 1, Operational Effectiveness, of the County's Strategic Plan.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

No net County cost is associated with the acceptance of the donation. Costs are paid by the NCI SEER Program to AIM, which in turn will supply E-path to LAC+USC MC. The total combined value of the E-Path system is \$60,754 for the automated electronic selection, encoding, and transmission of up to 100,000 pathology reports annually from LAC+USC MC's laboratory information system to the hospital Cancer Registry, including 15 days of IT consultations, and technical assistance, annual license fees, annual fees for application support, version upgrades, and the E-Path Monitoring Console with Coding Assist, for each workstation.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

Section 2.4.2 of the County Fiscal Manual authorizes County departments to accept donations in excess of \$10,000 with Board approval.

From October 2008 through September of 2013 NCI contracted with AIM to install and maintain E-Path software at nearly 300 of its SEER Program sites. The E-Path systems installed at each site enabled the NCI to move from a manual reporting system to an automated system in which data is transmitted electronically from SEER sites, to the NCI. Since E-Path is the hub of the SEER Network, it is vital that all participating sites utilize the same software; therefore the NCI assumes all of the costs for the purchase, installation, and maintenance of the software at each site. In October, NCI executed a new 5-year agreement, from October, 2013 through September 2018, with AIM to continue funding its consultation and technical assistance services. It is expected that NCI will continue to execute new agreements with AIM for as long as the E-Path system is utilized. In the event that NCI terminates their relationship with AIM, LAC+USC MC will discontinue use of the software.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

Approval of the recommended actions will help maintain the quality of health care delivered to cancer patients at LAC+USC MC and increase the accuracy and efficiency by which de-identified data is collected and submitted to the Cancer Registry.

Attached for your consideration is a draft letter to NCI SEER Program thanking them for their generosity.

Respectfully submitted,



Mitchell H. Katz, M.D.

Director

MHK:db

Enclosures

c: Chief Executive Office
County Counsel
Executive Office, Board of Supervisors

ATTACHMENT A

January 21, 2014

Meryl Levanthal, CTR
Los Angeles Cancer Surveillance Program
USC Keck School of Medicine
SSB Suite 305
Los Angeles, CA 90089-9230

Dear Ms. Levanthal:

At its meeting held January 21, 2014, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors accepted, with thanks, the donation of The E-Path system for the automated selection, encoding and transmission of pathology reports from LAC+USC Medical Center to The National Cancer Institute's Surveillance Epidemiology and End Results (SEER) Program, valued at \$60,754. This E-Path donation will greatly benefit cancer patients by increasing the accuracy and efficiency by which data is collected and submitted to the Cancer Registry.

The Board members have requested that I express their appreciation to you for this generous donation.

Very truly yours,

Sachi A. Hamai
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors

SAH:db