

Community Letter of Congratulations
Presented at the Dedication of the HIV Cure and Viral Diseases Center
June 2, 2025

To Dr. Luis J. Montaner, new HIV Cure and Viral Diseases Center Faculty, and the entire Wistar Institute Team,

On behalf of our community, it is with deep admiration, heartfelt gratitude, and unwavering support that we extend our warmest congratulations on the establishment and dedication of the **HIV Cure and Viral Diseases Center** at The Wistar Institute, we come not just as observers, but as partners, as people whose lives have been shaped by this journey, and who carry deep hopes for the future you are helping to build.

This historic milestone represents a bold and compassionate commitment to confronting viral diseases including one of the most persistent and profound public health challenges of our time. With millions of people living with HIV worldwide, the opening of this Center stands as a beacon of hope, healing, and global solidarity. It represents a future that moves beyond lifelong treatment toward a lasting, accessible, and equitable cure. As with HIV, we also acknowledge your scientists' commitment against viral diseases such as EBV, HPV, as well as past and future emerging viral threats.

We commend your visionary approach to science, one that is rooted in rigorous, cutting-edge research and shaped by the voices and lived experiences of those most affected. The Center's mission to integrate foundational virology, personalized medicine, and immunological innovation is not only commendable but essential. The inclusion of global collaborations, industry partnerships, community engagement, and interdisciplinary research ensures that the work being orchestrated and happening here in Philadelphia will have both local and global reach. This new Center is more than just bricks and mortar. It is a space where science meets compassion, where the knowledge of researchers intersects with the lived experiences of those most affected. It's a space where people like us are **seen**—as both participants and collaborators—and that makes all the difference.

To Dr. Montaner, the scientific leadership, and all who labor in the service of human health at Wistar: your work reminds us that science is not just a field of inquiry, it is an act of care. To every scientist, clinician, staff member, Wistar board member, and supporter: thank you for believing that a cure is possible. Thank you for daring to dream bigger, not just for yourselves, but for all of us. The work you do here will echo far beyond these walls, and far beyond this city.

This Center exemplifies what becomes possible when vision, investment, and community converge. We are proud to stand beside you as allies, advocates, and beneficiaries of your groundbreaking efforts.

May this dedication mark not only the opening of a building but the beginning of breakthroughs, a space where cures are uncovered, disparities are addressed, and lives are changed forever.

With admiration and solidarity,