
From: Exec Dean Admin
Sent: Thursday, August 23, 2007 3:57 PM
To: mheitor@ist.utl.pt
Cc: Pullen, Amanda J.; Aretz, H. Thomas; Kinsella, Susan M; mleocadio@mctes.gov.pt
Subject: HMS/Portugal Collaboration Proposal

Dear Manuel,

Attached please find the first draft of the collaboration proposal that has been prepared by Tom Aretz and his dedicated team. This plan is the result of the short term assessment period outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding that we signed earlier this year. Included with this proposal is a list of items prepared by Tom that still need to be addressed within the Portuguese components of the collaboration. Our plan is to complete the open items and submit the final deliverable by the end of August.

Since we last spoke, there has been a change in the approval process at the University level. This is an extraordinary time for us here at Harvard – a new University President, Dr. Drew Gilpin Faust began her tenure on July 1, 2007 and a new Dean for Harvard Medical School, Dr. Jeffrey Flier will begin his tenure on September 4, 2007. As a result of these leadership transitions, it is necessary for us to determine whether this proposal will have the full endorsement of the University's new leadership and this review process is underway. As you are intimately involved in gaining the appropriate approvals in Portugal for this project, I am sure you understand the importance of full endorsement from the leadership to ensure the sustainable success of the project.

I want to assure you that I have kept in touch with the progress that the collaborative HMS/Portugal teams have made since our meeting in November 2006 and feel that the emerging programs would have very positive impact for both our communities. The HMS team members, who have presented their work to me, are very enthusiastic and keen to begin working with their Portuguese colleagues, pending receiving the appropriate approvals.

Finally, I would like to thank you for giving Harvard Medical School this profound opportunity to work with the many fine academic institutes in Portugal and look forward to seeing you again in September.

Sincerely

Cynthia L. Walker
Executive Dean for Administration