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Written submission from the
<b>University of British Columbia</b>

Mémoire de l'Université de la Colombie-Britannique

In the Matter of the À l'égard de

TRIUMF Accelerators Inc.

**TRIUMF Accelerators Inc.** 

Application by TRIUMF Accelerators Inc. for renewal of operating licence for its particle accelerator facilities

Demande de TRIUMF Accelerators Inc. pour le renouvellement de son permis d'exploitation pour ses installations dotées d'un accélérateur de particules

**Commission Public Hearing** 

Audience publique de la Commission

March 23, 2022

23 mars 2022



## University of British Columbia and Vancouver Hospital:

Division of Neurology



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January 31, 2022

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## To Whom it May Concern:

I write this letter in strong support of TRIUMF's application for licensing renewal with the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission. TRIUMF has long been an integral part of the University of British Columbia's imaging program since its inception more than 35 years ago. The first PET scanner owned by our group was built at TRIUMF, and almost all radiopharmaceuticals used for our patient-volunteer studies are still prepared at TRIUMF today. Simply stated, the imaging component of the UBC positron emission tomography (PET) program, and consequently the backbone of our research program, could not exist without the expertise and support of TRIUMF. Our program relies on TRIUMF providing legacy radiopharmaceuticals as part of our ongoing longitudinal studies in the field of neurodegenerative disease, but also on the provision of new radioligands for emerging studies across many areas of neurological health, including addiction, traumatic brain injury and dementia.

As a testament to our shared commitment to the safe provision of radiopharmaceuticals for patients, the past decade has seen several partnered investments from both of our institutions to upgrade both facility and process for the safe production of radiopharmaceuticals. Both TRIUMF and UBC have committed grant and institutional funding to upgrade legacy facilities into modern GMP (Good Manufacturing Practices)-capable facilities in response to evolving Health Canada requirements for radiopharmaceuticals. Coupled to this is TRIUMF's intense effort to validate their production processes, highlighted by the documentation of a large number of standard operating procedures (SOPs) that capture all aspects of the radiopharmaceutical production program. Such documentation has also led to reduced staff radiation doses, while increasing production reliability.

Transparently, the various improvements enacted over the past 10 years have not always been easy. There have been many instances of delayed and/or cancelled patient scans, in part arising from enhanced safety and quality measures implemented, all while a culture of continuous improvement continued for all systems in place to produce radiopharmaceuticals for human use. In all, TRIUMF's commitment to safety and production of high-quality radiotracers takes priority, for which we are grateful.

In summary, TRIUMF is and remains a major player in UBC's research program, but also in Canada's overall technology ecosystem. With over 50 years since its founding, TRIUMF is a national asset and international fixture in fundamental research, while also serving a technological hub for critical contributions to industry, health care, and education across the country

Sincerely,

A. Jon Stoessl, CM, MD, FRCPC, FAAN, FCAS

Professor and Head, Neurology

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