

July 14, 2023

Dr. Thomas Priselac
President
Cedars-Sinai Medical Center
8700 Beverly Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90048

Dear President Priselac:

This letter serves as formal notification and official record of action taken concerning Cedars-Sinai Medical Center Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences (CSMC) by the WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC) at its meeting June 30, 2023. This action was taken after consideration of the report of the review team that conducted the Accreditation Visit to Cedars-Sinai Medical Center Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences April 12-14, 2023. The Commission also reviewed the institutional report and exhibits submitted by Cedars-Sinai Medical Center Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences prior to the Offsite Review (OSR), the supplemental materials requested by the team after the OSR, and the institution's May 15, 2023 response to the team report. The Commission appreciated the opportunity to discuss the visit with you (if applicable) and your colleagues Linda King, Institutional Research Coordinator and ALO; William Parks, Associate Dean, GRE; and Jeffrey Golden, Vice-Dean, GRE. Your comments were very helpful in informing the Commission's deliberations. The date of this action constitutes the effective date of the institution's new status with WSCUC.

Actions

1. Receive the Accreditation Visit team report
2. Reaffirm accreditation for a period of eight years
3. Schedule the next reaffirmation review with the Offsite Review in fall 2030 and the Accreditation Visit in spring 2031
4. Schedule a Progress Report to be submitted by October 1, 2026 to address all requirements of this letter

The Commission commends Cedars-Sinai Medical Center Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences in particular for the following:

1. A culture in which students build connections with faculty, staff, and fellow students, and feel welcomed as peers.
2. Faculty and program leadership that engages students in shaping courses, curriculum, and the students' educational experience.
3. Innovative faculty and leadership focused on strategic long-term growth in academic programs.
4. PhD program that strongly emphasizes translational science; Master's programs that educate graduates who are competent and competitive to be employed in a changing health care environment.
5. Individualized attention and mentoring given to students by faculty and staff.

The Commission requires the institution to respond to the following issues:

1. Execute its plan to appoint a school-level external advisory board to provide perspective, input, and guidance. (CFRs 3.9, 4.7)
2. Devote further attention to the institution's goals regarding creating a culture of diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging throughout all operations and functions of the school. (CFR 1.4)
3. Develop a cohesive, formalized approach to student support services. (CFR 2.13)
4. Invest in development and refinement of assessment of student learning. (CFR 2.3, 2.6, 4.4)
5. Enhance enrollment management through focused marketing, outreach, and website presence for all programs. (CFR 3.4)

In taking this action to reaffirm accreditation, the Commission confirmed that Cedars-Sinai Medical Center Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences addressed the three Core Commitments and successfully completed the two-stage institutional review process conducted under the 2013 Standards of Accreditation. In keeping with WSCUC values, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences should strive for ongoing improvement with adherence to all Standards of Accreditation and their associated CFRs to foster a learning environment that continuously strives for educational excellence and operational effectiveness.

In accordance with Commission policy, a copy of this letter is being sent to the chair of Cedars-Sinai Medical Center's governing board. The Commission expects that the team report and this action letter will be posted in a readily accessible location on the Cedars-Sinai Medical Center's website and widely distributed throughout the institution to promote further engagement and improvement and to support the institution's response to the specific issues identified in these documents. The team report and the Commission's action letter will also be posted on the WSCUC website. If the institution wishes to respond to the Commission action on its own website, WSCUC will post a link to that response on the WSCUC website.

Finally, the Commission wishes to express its appreciation for the extensive work that Cedars-Sinai Medical Center Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences undertook in preparing for and supporting this accreditation review. WSCUC is committed to an accreditation process that adds value to institutions while contributing to public accountability, and we thank you for your continued support of this process. Please contact me if you have any questions about this letter or the action of the Commission.

Sincerely,



Jamienne S. Studley
President

JSS/mbg

Cc: Phillip Doolittle, Immediate Past Chair
Tracy Poon Tambascia, Chair
Linda King, ALO
Mark Seigel, Board of Directors Chair
Members of the Accreditation Visit team
Mark B. Goor, Vice President