

Friends and neighbors:

I am writing to let you know about an important decision about the Bingham Facility. Bill Roper, dean of the UNC School of Medicine and principal investigator, has notified the National Institutes of Health that the University is relinquishing the \$14.5 million grant awarded in April.

That grant would have funded the construction of two new buildings to house additional animals for research on genetic diseases. We have concluded that pursuing the NIH-funded expansion, however, would require more costly infrastructure upgrades than we anticipated.

This is a major change of course for us, and it will take some time to determine our future plans for the Bingham Facility. Until those plans are complete, the University will continue to maintain and operate the Bingham Facility at its present size. We are committed to making the appropriate upgrades to the wastewater treatment system that will comply with the N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources' permit requirements for protecting public health and the environment. We're also committed to communicating these decisions to you and plan to meet with you as soon as our new course is clear.

Sincerely,

Bob Lowman