

July 11, 2025

Mr. Robert Stone
Chief Executive Officer
Irell & Manella Graduate School of Biological Sciences
1500 E. Duarte Road
Duarte, CA 91010

Dear Mr. Stone:

This letter serves as formal notification and official record of action taken concerning Irell & Manella Graduate School of Biological Sciences (IMGS) by the WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC) at its meeting June 27, 2025. This action was taken after consideration of the report of the review team that conducted the Thematic Pathway for Reaffirmation (TPR) Accreditation Visit to Irell & Manella Graduate School of Biological Sciences March 5-7, 2025 using the 2023 Standards of Accreditation. The Commission also reviewed the institutional report and exhibits submitted by Irell & Manella Graduate School of Biological Sciences prior to the Accreditation Visit, and the institution's April 30, 2025 response to the team report. The Commission appreciated the opportunity to discuss the visit with you and your colleagues John D. Carpten, Chief Scientific Officer and Director of the Beckman Research Institute; David Ann, Dean; Yilun Liu, Vice Dean; Markus Kalkum, Director of Ph.D Administration and Admissions; Mark Boldin, Self-Study Chair; Ben Hung-Ping Shih, Self-Study Co-chair; and Sarah Bannister, Academic Program Specialist. 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 ten years
3. Schedule the next reaffirmation review with the Offsite Review in fall 2034 and the Accreditation Visit in spring 2035
4. Schedule an Interim Report to be submitted by November 1, 2027 to address:
 - a. Develop a formal organizational structure for student affairs and co-curricular functions – including student complaint and grievance processes – to increase their visibility, accessibility, scope, and effectiveness. (CFRs 1.4, 2.13)

Commendations

The Commission commends the institution for the following:

1. Its effectiveness in preparing graduate students and postdoctoral scholars to make and apply discoveries in translational medicine for the benefit of human health.
2. Its collaborative research and mentorship ethos, and for effectively integrating graduate education into the research, translational medicine and clinical missions of the City of Hope. This ethos and alignment generate synergies that are mutually supportive and beneficial.
3. Being nimble and responsive to input from the full range of stakeholders.
4. Fostering a culture dedicated to continuous improvement of its programs and student outcomes.

Areas for Development

The Commission requires the institution to respond to the following areas for development:

1. Advance the culture of shared governance to ensure that faculty exercise effective academic leadership in admissions, curricula, and faculty appointments, promotion and tenure. (CFRs 2.5, 2.6, 2.7, 2.8)
2. Refine the criteria for the appointment, review, and promotion of faculty to explicitly recognize and reward contributions to graduate education, postdoctoral training, and the mentoring of students and early career researchers. (CFRs 2.8, 3.2, 3.3)
3. Develop a formal organizational structure for student affairs and co-curricular functions – including student complaint and grievance processes – to increase their visibility, accessibility, scope, and effectiveness. (CFRs 1.4, 2.13)
4. Expand and enumerate the desired student and faculty outcomes for the active learning, mentoring, and postgraduate success initiatives; these should be aligned with specific, measurable, quantifiable indicators of success that will be assessed. (CFRs 2.14, 4.6)

In taking this action to reaffirm accreditation, the Commission confirmed that Irell & Manella Graduate School of Biological Sciences completed the Thematic Pathway for Reaffirmation institutional review process conducted under the 2023 Standards of Accreditation. In keeping with WSCUC values, Irell & Manella Graduate School of Biological 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 Irell & Manella Graduate School of Biological Sciences governing board. The Commission expects that the team report and this action letter will be posted in a readily accessible location on the Irell & Manella Graduate School of Biological Sciences 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 Irell & Manella Graduate School of Biological Sciences undertook in preparing for the 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Toyoda', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

A. Maria Toyoda
President

AMT/lp

Cc: Tracy Poon Tambascia, Commission Chair
Markus Kalkum, ALO
Steve Fink, Board Chair
Members of the TPR Accreditation Visit Team
Linda Petersen, Vice President