



August 1, 2022

Director's Response – HSRLCE External Review

I am pleased to provide my full endorsement of the recommendations of the Heart and Stroke / Richard Lewar Centre of Excellence in Cardiovascular Research's external review conducted by David Cherney and Valeria Rac on June 15, 2022. It has been my privilege to direct the Centre over the past decade and to work with such talented faculty and trainees.

It is critical to begin a strategic planning exercise to inform the future of the Centre. I remain very concerned about the financial support needed to sustain the Centre and look forward to meeting with our development office to charter a plan. We have an incredible international footprint through our numerous research and educational collaborations and through our leadership of the WNICER global clinical research platform. This has contributed to our high global rankings in CV Medicine (currently 6th in the most recent US News and World Report rankings) and to the overall international visibility of our faculty.

Importantly, our continued and sustained efforts to bridge basic and translational research with our clinical epidemiology and clinical trials infrastructure will serve us well for the future. The positioning of the Centre as an umbrella organization will continue to unite all of our affiliated platforms including but not limited to the Ted Rogers Centre for Heart Research, the Schulich Heart Centre, The Keenan Research Centre and the Banting and Best Diabetes Centre, and will allow for our faculty and trainees to be invested in our university-wide CV program. The usual tendencies to divide us should be resisted and we should empower our respective leaders to be visionary on this account.

I am most appreciative of this wonderful opportunity to direct the Centre and will provide my full support to the next administration.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "ME Farkouh". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Michael E. Farkouh, MD, MSc, FRCP
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