**Weil Institute Letter of Support**

**Request Instructions and Letter Template**

If you will be using Weil Institute support services for your project (e.g., [Animal Lab](https://weilinstitute.med.umich.edu/pre-clinical-critical-care-laboratory), [Clinical Research Unit](https://weilinstitute.med.umich.edu/clinical-research-unit), [Data Science](https://weilinstitute.med.umich.edu/data-science-team)), your grant proposal may be strengthened by a letter detailing the support.

Once you have worked with the relevant Weil support team(s) to determine what support they will provide for your project and have developed the appropriate budget, customize the below letter template, adding specific details about your project and how you will use Weil Institute support services in your research.

Email your letter draft to Denise Wieck (poirierd@med.umich.edu), who will work with Dr. Ward to review and sign the letter. *Please confirm in your email that you have budgeted for the Weil support detailed and that you worked with the appropriate Weil team leader(s) to do so.*

You will receive the pdf of your signed letter on Weil Institute letterhead within 5 business days.

[Date]

[Your name]

[Your title]

Dear [your preferred salutation]:

As Executive Director of the Max Harry Weil Institute for Critical Care Research & Innovation at the University of Michigan, I write to express my strong support for your [agency and/or mechanism] proposal titled [“*Project Title”*]. Specifically, I commit the resources of the Weil Institute for the execution of your aims, including our [Pre-Clinical Critical Care Laboratory, Clinical Research Unit, Data Science Team]. I believe that by leveraging this/these one-of-a-kind resource(s), your team will be uniquely positioned to […brief project description/goal].

As you know, the Weil Institute is one of the world’s first comprehensive research enterprises devoted to improving the care of patients suffering from critical illness and injury. We are pursuing this unique mission by providing an innovative multidisciplinary research infrastructure designed to catalyze the translation of scientific discovery to the multiple interrelated disease platforms of critical illness and injury. To do this, the Weil Institute brings together integrative teams comprising world class U-M basic scientists, data scientists, engineers, clinical investigators, inventors, and entrepreneurs. [Disease area such as TBI, ARDS, sepsis, etc.] is a major research thrust for the Weil Institute, and we will thus provide important expertise and resources for this project.

[Below, keep only the bullet(s) relevant to your project and describe how they will support your research.]

* *Pre-Clinical Critical Care Laboratory:* This laboratory supports large animal models in complex states of critical illness and injury, including [disease area of focus] (as well as ARDS, sepsis, multisystem trauma, traumatic brain injury, burn trauma, cardiac arrest, and post-resuscitation care). The lab is equipped with state-of-the-art high resolution physiologic and metabolic monitoring and analytic equipment providing for unique “physiomic” monitoring, tissue banking, and analysis for preclinical research, and the lab is staffed with highly qualified and trained researchers, veterinarians, and technicians. For this project, [describe support, such as: the lab will conduct all proposed animal studies in Aim X.]
* *Clinical Research Unit:* This unit provides extensive support for clinical critical care research in the Emergency Department and ICUs, including patient recruitment, enrollment, sample and data collection, and regulatory submissions and management. They have access to a 24/7 electronic surveillance system that immediately identifies and notifies the research team of patients who meet inclusion/exclusion criteria, and they have access to clinical lab space near the Emergency Department for short-term sample storage and processing. For this project, [describe support, such as: a Weil Institute clinical coordinator will recruit and consent participants and collect patient samples for Aim X. They will also manage the study IRB submission to ensure the research is compliant with local and federal guidelines and regulatory requirements.]
* *Data Science Team and Big Data Platform:* This team provides a unique and powerful ICU data architecture platform that captures continuous, high-resolution data from every ICU patient at the U-M Hospital. Data capture includes physiologic waveforms (e.g., EKG, arterial catheter waveforms), radiographic studies, medication administration, and laboratory results, all time-synched and integrated with clinical documentation from the EHR. Our team of data scientists are well-equipped to use this high-resolution data to build sophisticated machine learning models. For this project, [describe support, such as: this powerful ICU data platform will provide exquisite clinical characterization of your cohort in Aim X, and our data scientists will help develop and validate models to X.]

In sum, I am proud that the Weil Institute can offer an exceptional intellectual environment and considerable resources to support your research, and we are committed to the success of your proposal.

Sincerely,

Kevin R. Ward, MD, FACEP, FAAEM

Professor, Emergency Medicine and Biomedical Engineering

Executive Director, Weil Institute for Critical Care Research & Innovation

University of Michigan

LTC U.S. Army Reserve Medical Corps