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STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO FALSE ACCUSATIONS ABOUT FACHEP

March 30, 2018

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The tragedy of the Flint water crisis has been compounded by misinformation and distortions from the earliest stages. Sadly, that pattern continues.

Multiple statements have been posted on websites and social media that attempt to bring into question the actions and results of the FACHEP team around our scientific work in Flint.

The claims made against our group are false and they are examples of unprofessional and destructive conduct.

FACHEP is a multi-disciplinary team of experts from the University of Michigan, Michigan State University, Kettering University, Colorado State University and Henry Ford Health System. Our work meets the highest standards for ethical conduct required by these institutions. We rely on sound science and rigorous research methods. Our work has been peer reviewed and accepted for publication in some of the most prestigious scientific journals in the nation. We stand by the quality of our science and the integrity of our work in Flint and deny the allegations recently raised.

Our team has worked and continues to work by the following set of principles and guidelines:

1. We are focused on conducting experiments and disseminating results using the most current, rigorous and established scientific standards and methods.
2. We remain committed to transparency and believe it is appropriate to share information about our work and all verified results with our partners and Flint residents. We believe the public has a right to know.
3. We remain committed to working with Flint residents to ensure that they have the best available information about their water based on our findings and experience.

It is very unfortunate when individuals resort to personal and unfounded attacks. Such attacks do not help us advance understanding or help the people of Flint. Rather, they confuse, contribute to rumors and create more harm. Sadly, there is a well-established pattern of distortions and misinformation by some of the individuals and investigators associated with Flint.

Our recent peer reviewed articles on Flint can be found here:

Zahrn, S., McElmurry, S. P., Kilgore, P. E., Mushinski, D., Press, J., Love, N. G., ... & Swanson, M. S. (2018). Assessment of the Legionnaires' disease outbreak in Flint, Michigan. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 115(8), E1730-E1739.

Available: <http://www.pnas.org/content/115/8/E1730.short> (<http://www.pnas.org/content/115/8/E1730.short>)

Byrne, B. G., McColm, S., McElmurry, S. P., Kilgore, P. E., Sobeck, J., Sadler, R., ... & Swanson, M. S. (2018). Prevalence of Infection-Competent Serogroup 6 *Legionella pneumophila* within Premise Plumbing in Southeast Michigan. *mBio*, 9(1), e00016-18.

Available: <http://mbio.asm.org/content/9/1/e00016-18.full?sid=4f6bc78d-f42f-41ea-a658-19935fbde788> (<http://mbio.asm.org/content/9/1/e00016-18.full?sid=4f6bc78d-f42f-41ea-a658-19935fbde788>)

Masten, S. J., Davies, S. H., & McElmurry, S. P. (2016). Flint Water Crisis: What Happened and Why?. *Journal-American Water Works Association*, 108(12), 22.

Available: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5353852/> (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5353852/>)

We encourage members of the media and the public to read these articles and make judgments about the quality of the science and not rely on the unsupported and false accusations of others.

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