



3 February, 2012

Partner University Fund (PUF)
French Embassy 4101 Reservoir Road, NW
Washington, DC 20007

Dear Sir or Madam,

As Dean of the Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science (RSMAS), and Associate Dean for Graduate Studies at RSMAS, we strongly endorse the proposal to the PUF as submitted by Professor Jean-Olivier Irisson of UPMC and Professor Robert K Cowen of RSMAS. We are fully committed to contribute to the project and confirm that necessary steps will be undertaken to ensure successful implementation of all planned activities as proposed in the project 'Physical-biological interactions at mesoscale in the ocean'.

This project proposes a scientific component that relies on complementary skills of the French and US teams, both widely experienced in the field of oceanography. Further, the UPMC/RSMAS program aims to greatly enhance the already strong interactions between UPMC and RSMAS via the exchange of master and PhD students as well as faculty for the purposes teaching and research. As a consequence, the research and educational programs of both institutions would be greatly enriched.

We fully anticipate that this project will strengthen the existing collaboration between UPMC and RSMAS. It meets with our general policies for international exchange among institutions of higher education and as such we fully endorse this PUF proposal and hope to see the collaboration become a sustained partnership into the future.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Roni Avissar'.

Roni Avissar
Dean, RSMAS

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Martin Grosell'.

Martin Grosell
Associate Dean for Graduate Studies, RSMAS