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**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

**IN RE USC STUDENT HEALTH
CENTER LITIGATION**

No. 2:18-cv-04258-SVW

[consolidated with No. 2:18-cv-04940-SVW-GJS, No. 2:18-cv-05010-SVW-GJS, No. 2:18-cv-05125-SVW-GJS, and No. 2:18-cv-06115-SVW-GJS]

**[PROPOSED] ORDER GRANTING
PLAINTIFFS' MOTION FOR
PRELIMINARY SETTLEMENT
APPROVAL, APPOINTMENT OF
SPECIAL MASTER, AND TO DIRECT
CLASS NOTICE**

Date: April 1, 2019
Time: 1:30 p.m.
Dept: Courtroom 10A
Judge: Hon. Stephen V. Wilson

1 This matter is before the Court on Plaintiffs’ motion for preliminary settlement
2 approval, appointment of special master, and to direct notice. Plaintiffs, individually and
3 on behalf of the proposed settlement class, and Defendants have entered into a Settlement
4 Agreement (“Settlement”) that, if approved, would resolve this litigation.

5 Having considered the motion, the Settlement Agreement together with all exhibits
6 and attachments thereto, the record in this matter, and the briefs and arguments of
7 counsel, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED as follows:

8 1. Unless otherwise defined herein, all capitalized terms shall have the same
9 meaning ascribed to them in the Settlement Agreement.

10 2. The Court has jurisdiction over this litigation, Plaintiffs, Defendants, and
11 Settlement Class Members, and any party to any agreement that is part of or related to the
12 Settlement Agreement.

13 **PRELIMINARY APPROVAL**

14 3. The Court has reviewed the terms of the proposed Settlement Agreement,
15 the exhibits and attachments thereto, Plaintiffs’ motion papers and briefs, and the
16 declarations submitted in support of the motion. Based on its review of these papers, the
17 Court finds that the Settlement Agreement appears to be the result of serious, informed,
18 non-collusive negotiations conducted with the assistance of former United States District
19 Judge Layn R. Phillips.

20 4. The Settlement does not improperly grant preferential treatment to any
21 individual or segment of the Settlement Class; does not exhibit any signs of collusion,
22 explicit or subtle; and falls within the range of possible approval as fair, reasonable, and
23 adequate and thus is likely to gain final approval under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure
24 23(e)(2).

25 5. The Court therefore GRANTS preliminary approval of the Settlement.
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1 **PRELIMINARY FINDINGS ON SETTLEMENT CLASS CERTIFICATION**

2 6. The Court finds that it will likely be able to certify the following Settlement
3 Class for purposes of judgment on the proposed Settlement:

4 All women who were seen for treatment by Dr. George M. Tyndall at the
5 University of Southern California student health center during the period
6 from August 14, 1989 to June 21, 2016 (a) for Women’s Health Issues, or
7 (b) whose treatment included an examination by him of her breast or genital
8 areas, or (c) whose treatment included the taking of photographs or
9 videotapes of her unclothed or partially clothed body.

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11 7. The Court preliminarily finds, for settlement purposes only, that the
12 requirements of Rule 23(a) are satisfied.

13 8. Rule 23(a)(1) is satisfied because the class consists of approximately 14,000
14 to 17,000 women, whose identities are ascertainable through USC’s records or through
15 self-identification. Rule 23(a)(2) is satisfied because there are common issues—
16 Tyndall’s alleged misconduct toward female patients at the USC student health center,
17 and USC’s alleged failure to terminate or otherwise discipline him—are at the core of all
18 claims.

19 9. The Court further finds that the Class Representatives’ claims are typical of
20 those of Settlement Class Members and that the Class Representatives will fairly and
21 adequately protect the interests of the Settlement Class; therefore Rule 23 (a)(3) and (4)
22 are satisfied.

23 10. Additionally, the Court preliminarily finds, for settlement purposes only,
24 that the requirements of Rule 23(b)(3) are satisfied: the questions of law or fact common
25 to the Settlement Class predominate over individual questions, and a class action is
26 superior to other available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of this
27 controversy.

1 11. The Court hereby appoints as Class Representatives: Plaintiffs Jane Doe
2 R.B., Jane Doe A.T., Jane Doe J.L., Jane Doe M.S., Shannon O’Conner, Jane Doe L.K.,
3 Jane Doe 5, Jane Doe M.V., Jane Doe K.M., Jane Doe A.S., Jane Doe A.F., Joyce
4 Sutedja, Jane Doe M.G., Jane Doe D.D., Jane Doe M.D., Jane Doe A.D., Jane Doe K.Y.,
5 Meggie Kwait, Jane Doe M.M., Jane Doe P.A., Jane Doe S.A., Jane Doe L.R., Jane Doe
6 R.K., Jane Doe H.R., Jane Doe 1HB, Jane Doe J.P., Jane Doe 1LC, Jane Doe C.N., Jane
7 Doe J.L., Vanessa Carlisle, Jane Doe J.C., Jane Doe F.M., Jane Doe J.K., Jane Doe C.L.,
8 Jane Doe S.R., Jane Doe K.P., Jane Doe 2, Betsayda Aceituno, Jane Doe D.C., Jane Doe
9 N.K., Jane Doe C.C., Jane Doe 4, Jane Doe C.B., Jane Doe 3, Jane Doe J.W., Mehrnaz
10 Mohammadi, Jane Doe A.N., Jane Doe L.Y., and Jane Doe A.H.

11 12. If for any reason the Court does not finally approve the Settlement, or if the
12 Effective Date does not occur, the preliminary certification findings shall be deemed null
13 and void without further action of the Court or the parties. In such circumstances each
14 party shall retain all of its respective currently existing rights to seek or to object to the
15 certification of this action as a class action under Fed. R. Civ. P. 23.

16 **NOTICE AND ADMINISTRATION**

17 13. The Court hereby designates JND Legal Administration (“JND”) as Claims
18 Administrator.

19 14. The Court finds that giving Class Members notice of the Settlement is
20 justified under Rule 23(e)(1) because, as described above, the Court will likely be able to:
21 approve the Settlement under Rule 23(e)(2); and certify the Settlement Class for purposes
22 of judgment.

23 15. The Court finds that the proposed Notice satisfies the requirements of due
24 process and Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23 and provides the best notice practicable
25 under the circumstances. The Notice and plan for its dissemination are reasonably
26 calculated to apprise Class Members of the nature of this litigation, the scope of the
27 Settlement Class, a summary of the class claims, that a Class Member may enter an
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1 appearance through an attorney, that the Court will grant timely exclusion requests, the
2 time and manner for requesting exclusion, and the binding effect of final approval.

3 16. The Court therefore approves the Notice and directs the parties and the
4 Claims Administrator to provide notice pursuant to the terms of the Settlement
5 Agreement and this Order.

6 **EXCLUSIONS AND OBJECTIONS**

7 17. Class Members who wish to opt-out and exclude themselves from the
8 Settlement may do so by notifying the Claims Administrator in writing postmarked no
9 later than _____, 2019.

10 18. To be valid, each request for exclusion must:

- 11 • Include the Class Member’s full name, address, and telephone number;
12 • Include the statement: “I want to be excluded from *In re USC Student*
13 *Health Center Litigation*, No. 2:18-cv-04258-SVW (C.D. Cal.), and
14 understand that by excluding myself, I will not be able to get any money
15 or benefits from the settlement” or substantially similar clear and
16 unambiguous language;
17 • Include the Class Member’s signature.
18 • Be mailed to the Claims Administrator at this address:
19 USC Student Health Center Settlement
20 c/o JND Legal Administration
21 P.O. Box 91235
Seattle, WA 98111-9335

22 19. Pursuant to section 3.6 of the Settlement, if a Class Member’s request for
23 exclusion is materially defective as to the requirements listed above (and detailed in the
24 Notice), the Claims Administrator will send the Class Member a letter advising of the
25 defect(s) and give the Class Member an opportunity to cure. If a Class Member fails to
26 cure the request for exclusion, the Claims Administrator will have no further obligation to
27 give notice of a need to cure.

1 20. All Class Members who do not opt out and exclude themselves from the
2 Settlement Class shall be bound by the terms of the Settlement upon entry of a final
3 approval order and judgment.

4 21. Settlement Class Members who wish to object to the Settlement may do so
5 in a written submission to the Court.

6 22. A written objection must:

- 7 • Include the Settlement Class Member's name, address, and telephone
8 number;
- 9 • Clearly identify the master case name and number (*In re USC Student*
10 *Health Center Litigation*, No. 2:18-cv-04258-SVW (C.D. Cal.));
- 11 • State whether the objections applies only to the objector, to a specific
12 subset of the class, or to the entire class, and state with specificity the
13 grounds for the objection;
- 14 • Be submitted to the Court either by mailing to:
15 Clerk, United States District Court for the Central District of California,
16 First Street Courthouse, 350 W. 1st Street, Court, Los Angeles,
17 California 90012, or by filing in person at any location of the United
18 States District Court for the Central District of California.

19 23. Any Settlement Class Member who does not timely submit a written
20 objection in accordance with the procedures listed above (and detailed in the Notice),
21 shall be deemed to have waived any objection, shall not be permitted to object to the
22 Settlement, and shall be precluded from seeking any review of the Settlement Agreement
23 and/or the final approval order and judgment by appeal or other means.

24 **FINAL APPROVAL AND HEARING SCHEDULE**

25 24. The Court will hold a Final Approval hearing on Monday, August 26, 2019
26 at ____ [a.m./p.m.] in Courtroom 10A, 10th Floor of the First Street Courthouse, 350 W.
27 1st Street, Los Angeles, California 90012. The Court may continue the date of the Final
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1 Approval hearing without further notice to Settlement Class Members. Settlement Class
2 Members should check the Settlement website or the Court’s online calendar for the date
3 of the Final Approval hearing.

4 25. At the Final Approval hearing, the Court will consider: whether the
5 Settlement is fair, reasonable, and adequate and should be granted final approval; whether
6 the Settlement Class should be finally certified; whether a final judgment should be
7 entered; and any other matters the Court may deem appropriate.

8 26. If the settlement is finally approved, Class Counsel will apply for an award
9 of attorneys’ fees, reimbursement of expenses, and service payments to Class
10 Representatives after final approval and implementation of the claims procedure. Class
11 Counsel’s request for attorneys’ fees and reimbursement of expenses may not exceed \$25
12 million. All attorneys’ fees and expenses will be paid separately by Defendants, in
13 addition to and without any reduction of the Settlement Fund. Any service awards the
14 Court approves will be paid from the Settlement Fund.

15 27. The Notice informs Class Members that Class Counsel’s motion for
16 attorneys’ fees, expenses, and service payments will be posted on the settlement website
17 as soon as it is filed. Settlement Class Members will have the opportunity to object to the
18 motion. The Court will then consider the motion.

19 28. The parties shall adhere to the following schedule unless otherwise ordered
20 by the Court:

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>
Claims Administrator sends Notice (“Notice Date”)	28 days after entry of preliminary approval order, or April 18, 2019, whichever is later
Objection and Opt-out Deadline	90 days after Notice Date
Motion for Final Settlement Approval Due	No later than 49 days before the Final Approval Hearing
Deadline to Submit Claim Forms and Statement of Class Membership Forms	120 days after Notice Date

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>
Final Approval Hearing	August 26, 2019 at _____ [a.m./p.m.]
Special Master files Report on Claims Process	28 days after completion of Claims Process
Motion for Award of Attorney’s Fees, Costs, and Service Awards to Class Representatives (“Fee Motion”) Due	14 days after Special Master files Report on Claims Process
Deadline to Object to Fee Motion	30 days after Fee Motion is filed and made available to Class Members on the Settlement Website
Reply in Support of Fee Motion Due	No later than 14 days before the Hearing on the Fee Motion
Hearing on Fee Motion	TBD

29. In the event that the Settlement is terminated pursuant to the terms of the Settlement Agreement, this Order shall become void, shall have no further force or effect, and shall not be used in this action or in any other proceedings for any purpose other than as may be necessary to enforce the terms of the Settlement Agreement that survive termination.

For the reason set forth above, the Court **GRANTS** Plaintiffs’ motion.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

DATED: _____

HONORABLE STEPHEN V. WILSON
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE