Dear Friends, Colleagues, and Students:

I am pleased to extend greetings to all in attendance at the *Fifth International Symposium on Recent Advances in Environmental Health Research*. Welcome to Jackson State University (JSU) and the beautiful city of Jackson.

This symposium is built upon the overwhelming success of the 4 previous conferences that were organized by JSU and co-sponsored by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) RCMI-Center for Environmental Health, the U.S. Department of Education Title III Graduate Education Program, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the JSU office of Research and Federal Relations.

The Fifth International Symposium highlights the excellence in environmental health and biomedical research conducted by JSU and other institutions of higher learning at the national and international levels. The symposium’s program is very exciting and promises to serve as an enriching platform to stimulate discussions on the latest scientific developments and to expand new horizons and perspectives in bio-environmental science and human health. The format will include platform and poster presentations, as well as distinguished lectures by internationally known experts with research expertise in cancer, diabetes, HIV/AIDS, infectious and parasitic diseases, cardiovascular diseases, neurodegenerative diseases, gene-environment interactions, emerging technologies, health disparities, and other environmentally-related illnesses.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to all the symposium sponsors and to the College of Science, Engineering and Technology for the hard work in organizing this international conference for the fifth time. Again, welcome to Jackson State University and very best wishes for an outstanding symposium.

Sincerely,

Velvelyn B. Foster, Ph.D.
Vice President for Academic Affairs and Student Life

Jackson State University