



November 7, 2016

For more than 25 years, the Reproductive Health Technologies Project (RHTP) has worked to advance the ability of every woman to achieve full reproductive freedom with access to the safest, most effective, appropriate, and acceptable technologies for ensuring her own health and determining whether, when, and how to have children. RHTP has done this work by seeking consensus through a process of dialogue among diverse communities about technological developments and their implications.

The quarter century mark as an independent organization has offered a time for reflection about RHTP's accomplishments and our place in the reproductive health, rights, and justice movement. After careful consideration, the Board of Directors determined that now is the time to bring RHTP's operations to a close. At our most recent meeting, the Board recognized that, in part because of our own contributions to the field, RHTP's particular role has become less essential than it once was. RHTP is proud that its core work to directly address and move past impasses where science and politics meet, and often clash, is now widely recognized as a standard approach to research and advocacy efforts to increasing access to reproductive technologies.

Since our founding, the environment in which we function has shifted significantly. Initially, there was a great need for an organization that could act as an honest and trusted broker to bridge different sectors and arms of our movement. Now a more broad array of reproductive health, rights, and justice organizations have the connections and visibility that make an intermediary less necessary. Moreover, our many reproductive health and rights colleagues take up the work of prioritizing scientific rigor and evidence-based policymaking and work to improve meaningful access to the reproductive technologies and service modalities that we first identified as vital to reproductive self-determination.

The decision to close RHTP, although difficult, is consistent with our strong history of looking ahead to forecast what our movement does – and does not – need, before many others may have had the time or perspective to observe the trends at play. We are gratified that the reproductive health and rights movement is more robust, diverse, rich, and open to pursuing creative strategies than ever before. While the issues on which we focus will always be critical, we know there is now a thriving ecosystem in place to carry on the work, develop long-term and innovative strategies, and persistently and persuasively challenge the status quo.

As part of our decision to wind down RHTP's operations, the Board of Directors and Jessica Arons agreed that she will depart in mid-November 2016 so she can focus her considerable energy and talents on determining where she can next make her best contributions to the reproductive health, rights, and justice movement. The Board is grateful to Jessica for her leadership, hard work, and dedication to RHTP during her

tenure as our President and CEO. Upon Jessica's departure, RHTP consultant and former board member Susannah Baruch will serve as interim President and CEO and will work with the Board to bring RHTP's programs to a close.

As we wind down operations, we will celebrate RHTP's successes and accomplishments, honor the dynamic founders, board members, and staff who have made the organization what it is. By taking a thoughtful and intentional approach to documenting and bringing RHTP's work to a close, we hope to leave a legacy that will live on in the efforts being pursued by others in our field. We will be back in touch in the coming months to share our plans for RHTP and how our work will be commemorated and passed on. Your support and ideas are greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Jacy Montoya Price and Liza Fuentes  
RHTP Board Co-Chairs