



BROWN

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April 1, 2009

Lyric Jorgenson, Ph.D.
NIH-AAAS Science and Technology Policy Fellow
Office of Science Policy
Office of the Director, NIH
National Institutes of Health
Building 1, Room 218 MSC 0166
9000 Rockville Pike
Bethesda, MD 20892

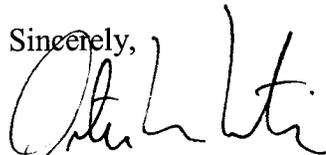
Dear Dr. Jorgenson:

As President of Research Society on Alcoholism, I am writing on behalf of the 1600 scientists and researchers who are members of the Society to voice concern about the agenda for the Scientific Management Review Board meeting scheduled for April 27-28, 2009. It is our understanding that one of the anticipated agenda items is the potential merger of the NIDA and NIAAA. RSA would like to go on record as voicing concerns that any discussion of the proposed merger is ill-timed in the absence of a DHHS Secretary, a permanent Director of the NIH, and a permanent Director of the NIAAA.

As President of RSA, I am hereby requesting that I be given the opportunity to provide commentary at this first meeting even though I understand that the meeting is intended to help the Scientific Management Review Board decide whether to further discuss the issue of a merger.

As President of RSA and a member of the NIAAA Advisory Council, as well as both an NIAAA and NIDA grantee, I feel that I have a unique perspective on this matter.

Joining me at the meeting will be Dr. Sara Jo Nixon, President-elect of the Society. Thank you in advance for your consideration and a response to this request. If you would like any additional information or have any questions, please contact me directly at Peter_Monti@brown.edu

Sincerely,

Peter M. Monti, Ph.D.

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