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July 29, 2009

Mr. Norman R. Augustine
Chairman
Scientific Management Review Board
Office of the Director
National Institutes of Health
Building 1, Room 103
9000 Rockville Pike
Bethesda, MD 20892

Dr. William R. Brody
Chairman
Deliberating Organizational Change Workgroup
Scientific Management Review Board
Office of the Director
National Institutes of Health
Building 1, Room 103
9000 Rockville Pike
Bethesda, MD 20892

Dr. William D. Roper
Chairman
Substance Use, Abuse, and Addiction Workgroup
Scientific Management Review Board
Office of the Director
National Institutes of Health
Building 1, Room 103
9000 Rockville Pike
Bethesda, MD 20892

Dear Chairmen Augustine, Roper, and Brody:

I am writing on behalf of the Research Society on Alcoholism (“RSA”) to recommend several individuals who are qualified to serve as expert advisors to the Substance Use, Abuse, and Addiction Workgroup (“SUAA”) and the Deliberating Organizational Change Workgroup (“DOC) as they address the critical issues with which they have been charged by the NIH Scientific Management Review Board (“SMRB”).

RSA was established in 1976 to serve as a meeting ground for scientists working in all fields of alcoholism and alcohol effects. The Society represents over 1700 scientists, physicians, academics,

and other experts who are committed to understanding and intervening in the consequences of alcohol through basic research, clinical protocols, and epidemiological studies. For many years, RSA has worked closely with the National Institutes of Health, the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism ("NIAAA"), the Department of Veterans Affairs, and the Department of Defense to stimulate and pursue research initiatives concerning alcoholism and the effects of alcohol.

RSA has drawn on its considerable expertise with alcohol-related matters as well as its extensive experience with hundreds of physicians, scientists, and leaders in the field to prepare the list of potential experts proffered below. RSA unqualifiedly recommends each of these individuals to SMRB and the SUAA and DOC Workgroups. Please note that RSA has limited its candidates to only senior experts who are well-qualified to present substance use research in the long-term and have demonstrated expertise in organizational growth and structure. Each of these individuals is well-able to participate in a meaningful way in discussions concerning the process of structural change, the development of meaningful objective criteria for assessing restructuring proposals, and the potential impact of changes at all levels of NIH responsibility.

Recommended Experts for SUAA Workgroup

Raul Caetano, M.D., Ph.D.

Dr. Caetano is Professor of Health Care Sciences and Dean of the Southwestern School of Health Professions, University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, and Professor of Epidemiology and Regional Dean of the Dallas Regional Campus, University of Texas School of Public Health. His is an alcohol epidemiologist with a special interest in drinking and alcohol-related problems among ethnic minorities.

Michael Charness, M.D.

Dr. Charness earned his B.Sc. in Psychology from McGill University (1972) and his M.D. from the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine (1976). Following a residency in Internal Medicine at the Johns Hopkins Hospital (1976-78), he served as resident and Chief Resident in Neurology (1978-81) and postdoctoral fellow in Neuroscience (1981-83) at the University of California, San Francisco. He is board certified in Internal Medicine and Neurology. Dr. Charness was Assistant Professor of Neurology at UCSF before moving to the Brockton/West Roxbury VA in 1989. He was appointed Chief of Neurology at the Brockton-West-Roxbury VA (1996-1999) and subsequently at the VA Boston Healthcare System (1999-2003), which was formed through the merger of the Boston VA and the Brockton/West Roxbury VA medical centers. In 2003 he was appointed Chief of Staff at the VA Boston Healthcare System, where he is responsible for all clinical, education, and research programs. Dr. Charness is Professor of Neurology and Faculty Associate Dean at Harvard Medical School and Assistant Dean at Boston University School of Medicine.

Dr. Charness's laboratory has enjoyed continuous support from NIH and the VA to study the molecular and cellular mechanisms of alcohol toxicity in the nervous system and the development of drugs that block alcohol neurotoxicity. His research has focused on the interactions of ethanol with the L1 neural cell adhesion molecule, a molecule that is critical for development of the nervous system. After noting similarities in the neuropathology of children with L1 gene mutations and fetal alcohol

syndrome, his lab demonstrated that ethanol inhibits L1 adhesion at concentrations attained after ingesting one or two alcoholic beverages. Drugs and peptides that antagonize ethanol inhibition of L1 adhesion also prevent ethanol-induced teratogenesis in mouse embryos. In recent work, Dr. Charness and colleagues have characterized an alcohol binding pocket within the extracellular domain of L1, a short distance from disease-causing loci.

Dr. Charness is the scientific director of the NIAAA Consortium Initiative on Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders, an international effort to improve the diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of this condition. He was President of the Research Society on Alcoholism (2005-2006) and serves on the Board of Directors of the International Society for Biomedical Research on Alcoholism (2002-2010). He was awarded the Frank Seixas Award of RSA (1999) and a MERIT Award from NIAAA, NIH (2002). He was a member and Chair of the Alcohol-Toxicology 3 Study Section, NIH (1997-2000) and Chair of the Medical Advisory Council, Alcoholic Beverage Medical Research Foundation. He served on the National Task Force on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and Fetal Alcohol Effects (2000-2003) and is a member of the National Advisory Council for NIAAA (2005-2009).

Mark S. Goldman, PhD

Mark S. Goldman is Distinguished Research Professor and Director of the Alcohol and Substance Use Research Institute at University of South Florida (USF). He also served as Associate Director of the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism from June, 2003, until May, 2006, and as Director of Clinical Psychology Training at USF from 1985 - 1995. He received his Ph.D. in January, 1972, from Rutgers University and has been on the faculty at Wayne State University (1973-1985) and USF (since 1985). He is a fellow of Divisions 3, 6, 12, 28, and 50, a member of 40 of the American Psychological Association (APA), and is board certified (ABPP) in clinical psychology.

In addition to research and clinical work in the addictions field since 1969, Dr. Goldman has served as Psychology Field Editor for the *Journal of Studies on Alcohol*, consulting editor (masthead) of a number of APA journals, member and then chair of the Psychosocial Research Review Committee of the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA), member of NIAAA's National Advisory Council on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, chair or member of a number of NIAAA portfolio review committees, member of the NIAAA research priority committee, co-chair (with Father Edward A. Malloy, president of the University of Notre Dame) of the NIAAA subcommittee on College Drinking, member of the Board of Professional Affairs of the APA, member of the Task Force on Psychological Intervention Guidelines (APA), President of the Division on Addictions for APA, and member and then chair of the psychosocial advisory review group for the Alcoholic Beverage Medical Research Foundation. In 1992, Dr. Goldman received a MERIT Award from the NIAAA. Dr. Goldman's major research interest is in alcohol expectancies and cognitive mediators of alcoholism risk, and the development of drinking and risk for drinking in children, adolescents, and young adults (over 300 articles and presentations)

Edward P. Riley, PhD

Edward P. Riley (Ph.D., 1974, Tulane University) is currently a Distinguished Professor in the Department of Psychology and the Director of the Center for Behavioral Teratology at San Diego State University. He has authored over 225 scientific papers and reviews, primarily on Fetal Alcohol

Spectrum Disorders. He was the Chair of the U.S. National Task Force on FAS/FAE from 2000-2004 and currently serves on the Expert Panel for the SAMHSA FASD Center for Excellence. He has served as President of the Research Society on Alcoholism, the Fetal Alcohol Study Group, and the Behavioral Teratology Society. He is currently a Reviewing Editor and on the Editorial Board of *Alcoholism: Clinical and Experimental Research*. He has received numerous awards for his scholarship and service including the Research Society on Alcoholism Distinguished Researcher Award and the National Organization on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Research Recognition Award. His work on FASD has been continually funded by the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism since 1978.

Marc A. Schuckit, M.D.

Dr. Schuckit is the Distinguished Professor of Psychiatry at the University of California, San Diego School of Medicine as well as the Associate Director of the Alcohol and Drug Treatment Program at the San Diego Veterans Affairs Medical Center. His major area of work includes genetic and environmental contributors toward alcoholism, comorbidity between alcohol/drug and psychiatric conditions, and diagnostic issues in the substance use disorders. He has served as the chairperson of the DSM-IV Substance Use Disorders Workgroup, and is a member of the DSM-V Substance Use Disorders Workgroup. On a national and international level, Dr. Schuckit serves as the Editor of the *Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs*, has twice been a member of the Advisory Council for NIAAA, and has served as a member of NIH grant application review committees.

Gyongyi Szabo, MD, PhD

Dr. Szabo, is Professor of Medicine and Associate Dean for Clinical and Translational Research at the University of Massachusetts Medical School where she also serves as Director of the MD/PhD program and Director of Hepatology and Liver Center. Dr. Szabo is an expert on the health and end-organ effects of alcohol use. She studies the effects of acute and chronic alcohol use on regulation of immunity and inflammation and the relationship between alcohol use and other liver diseases including non-alcoholic fatty liver disease and viral hepatitis infection. She studies the molecular and cellular mechanisms of alcohol- and hepatitis C- induced modulation of inflammation and the role of Toll-like receptor signaling pathways in alcoholic liver disease and in alcohol-induced acceleration of hepatitis C virus infection. Her studies on alcohol-induced modulation of inflammation have wide implications to the end-organ effects of alcohol use as related to the brain, lung, heart, pancreas, adipose and liver. She is an internationally recognized leader in the field of liver immunology and has been organizer and invited speaker at numerous international and national conferences, published papers in the highest ranking journals in the field liver research.

Dr. Szabo is a leader in alcohol research, she has been the organizer of the satellite meetings of the Research Society on Alcoholism (RSA) in the last 6 years and she is also Associate Editor of the journal of the RSA, *Alcoholism, Clinical and Experimental Research*. She has served on the External Advisory Board of the NIAAA. Dr. Szabo has leadership roles in the American Association for Liver Diseases (AASLD) as previous Chair of the Basic Research Committee and currently as Chair of the NIH Liaison Committee. Dr. Szabo is Associate Editor of *Hepatology* and she has served as member of Liver Action Plan and the National Commission for Digestive Diseases for the NIDDK.

Recommended Experts for DOC Workgroup

Kathleen Grant, Ph.D.

Dr. Kathleen Grant is Professor of Behavioral Neuroscience and Senior Scientist at the Oregon National Primate Research Center and the Oregon Health & Sciences University in Portland Oregon. Although she has been consistently supported by the NIAAA since a graduate student, both as an Intramural Staff Scientist and as an Extramural grantee, Dr. Grant also received training in behavioral pharmacology under the past NIDA Director, Dr. Charles R. Schuster, and is well versed in the behavioral pharmacology of all drugs of abuse. Dr. Grant has been the director of programmatic funding from NIAAA including training grants, a Center grant and currently a Consortia grant addressing the neural basis of stress and excessive alcohol consumption. Dr. Grant has received numerous awards and honors including the Keller and Bolles lectureships, the President of the Research Society on Alcoholism, and the Chair of the Board of Scientific Counsel for NIAAA. Dr. Grant has expertise in developing and applying animal models of alcoholism to advance our understanding of the risk for and consequences of excessive drinking. Her research highlights the unique effects of alcohol, unlike any other drug of abuse, on the entire of physiology of the organism, including the effects on nervous, reproductive, cardiovascular and digestive systems in understanding the diseased states propagated by the abuse of alcohol. Her research on endogenous steroids that mediate the subjective state of intoxication is a key finding in the understanding the insidious nature of alcohol in vulnerable individuals that propagates the abnormal drinking associated with alcoholism.

R. Adron Harris, Ph.D.

Adron Harris is the M. June and J. Virgil Waggoner Professor of Neurobiology and Cell and Molecular Biology as well as the Director of the Waggoner Center for Alcohol and Addiction Research at the University of Texas in Austin, Texas. His research areas include the neuropharmacology of alcohol, genetics of alcohol action, and brain mechanisms of alcohol dependence. He is very active in relevant national and international organizations--he is the Immediate Past President of the International Society on Biomedical Research on Alcoholism (ISBRA), a Past President of RSA, and a current member of the NIH/NIAAA National Advisory Council

Victor Hesselbrock, PhD

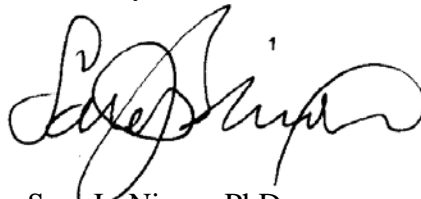
Victor Hesselbrock, PhD (PhD, 1977, Washington University (St Louis)) is currently Professor and Vice Chairman, Department of Psychiatry, University of Connecticut School of Medicine. He also holds the Physicians Health Services endowed chair in Addiction Studies. Dr. Hesselbrock is the Principal Investigator and Scientific Director of the University of Connecticut's NIAAA funded Alcohol Research Center and is co-Principal Investigator of the national Collaborative Study on the Genetics of Alcoholism (COGA). He is a past President of the Research Society on Alcoholism, and served on the National Advisory Council for the National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) and the NIH Council of Councils. Dr. Hesselbrock is Associate Editor of *Alcoholism: Clinical and Experimental Research*, a Review Editor for *Addiction*, and a member of the editorial board of the *Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs*. He has published more than 275 peer-reviewed articles. His research interests include: the genetic epidemiology of alcoholism; co-morbid psychiatric

conditions and substance dependence; and psychosocial, cognitive, and genetic risk factors for developing alcohol dependence and alcohol-related problems. His work on alcohol and substance abuse has been continually funded by the National Institutes of Health (including NIAAA and NIDA) since 1978.

RSA appreciates the opportunity to recommend experts who can assist SMRB and the SUAA and DOC Workgroups in their important missions. We would be pleased to provide any additional information concerning these candidates.

RSA welcomes the chance to work closely with each of you in the coming months.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sara Jo Nixon', with a small number '1' written above the end of the signature.

Sara Jo Nixon, PhD
President
Research Society on Alcoholism