



American Society for Mass Spectrometry

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Mr. Norman Augustine

Head, Scientific Management Review Board (SMRB)

Dear Mr. Augustine:

As representatives of the American Society for Mass Spectrometry, we would like to express our concerns about possible significant organizational changes at the NIH that may take place relatively quickly and without much stakeholder input. Specifically, information has been circulating that the National Center for Research Resources will be dissolved in conjunction with creation of a new Center that will house the NCRRC Clinical Translational Science Awards (CTSAs). We have no concerns with the creation of the new center. However, there are many important programs, currently managed through NCRRC, for which no information has been forthcoming regarding plans for their disposition within the new organizational structure. These include, for example, the shared instrumentation programs, which support the efforts of many biomedical investigators nation-wide, as do the many Biomedical Technology Resource Centers. Neither has there been an opportunity for stakeholders to consider proposed organizational realignments and provide input. We therefore urge the Scientific Management Review Board to adopt a more deliberate process that provides sufficient time to determine the potential consequences of the proposed rearrangement on the extremely valuable NCRRC programs that will not be included in the new Center. In its current independent structure, synergy among programs is a hallmark of the NCRRC, substantially enhancing the positive impact of the NCRRC on the biomedical research community as a whole. It is essential that careful consideration be given to the design and implementation of such a major reorganization and that planning for such far-reaching changes be made with sufficient transparency and external input to engender confidence that the best overall solutions have been achieved.

Sincerely,

Scott A. McLuckey

President, ASMS