

From: [Borries Demeler](#)
To: [SMRB \(NIH\OD\)](#)
Subject: NIH SMRB DEADLINE: Feb. 22 for Public Comments
Date: Sunday, February 13, 2011 12:40:08 PM

Dear Dr. Jorgensen,

I would like to submit a written comment for the next SMRB teleconference about the reorganization of NCRR and the proposed new center for advancing translational medicine and therapeutics development. My name, address, telephone number and professional affiliation is listed in my signature line.

I am greatly concerned that the proposed restructuring of the NCRR will lead to a diminishing funding focus on instrument development and basic research, will lead to a reduction in technological advances, and will end up being used as a backdoor for implementing budget cuts. I am certain that such shifts of focus would negatively affect cutting-edge research efforts supported by a variety of other NIH institutes. As a recipient of RO1 funding for method and software development for biophysical instrumentation, NCRR's support of our efforts in turn supports a large number of NIH-funded investigators in a wide range of fields, who have made significant discoveries by using the cutting-edge instrument and software developments resulting from the NCRR supported RO1 grants we and others depend on for generating leading technological advances. I am skeptical about the wisdom of separating P41 centers from a central NCRR administration and distributing them among different institutes. This could lead to a change of emphasis where future homes of P41 center grants will serve mostly the institutes under which they are administered (e.g., NIBIB, NIGMS), instead of the interests of a broader audience from many different NIH institutes. Also questionable is whether such reorganization will maintain/expand funding levels for P41s. I feel that a separate institutional entity such as the NCRR is critical to keep the focus on instrument development, basic research, and P41 centers, even though the translational effect of such efforts may not be immediately obvious but instead manifests itself indirectly through the impact these efforts have on translational research elsewhere.

Thank you, -Borries Demeler

Borries Demeler, Ph.D.
Associate Professor
The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio
Dept. of Biochemistry, MC 7760
7703 Floyd Curl Drive, San Antonio, Texas 78229-3901
Voice: 210-767-3332, Fax: 210-567-1136, Email: demeler@biochem.uthscsa.edu