

From: [Hugh Fan](#)
To: [SMRB \(NIH\OD\)](#)
Subject: SMRB Public Comment
Date: Thursday, February 17, 2011 11:27:03 AM

Dear Scientific Management Review Board,

I am a current grantee of National Center for Research Resources (NCRR) and worried about the impact of the proposed dissolution of NCRR. I participated in one teleconference organized by Dr. Tabak on Jan. 20, 2011. I appreciate their efforts and understand the reasons for establishing National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS), but the reasons for dismantling NCRR in order to have NCATS is not very convincing. Why does not NIH simply establish NCATS without dismantling NCRR while the law does not limit NIH to 27 institutes and centers? Alternatively, why does not NIH simply expand CTSA (Clinical and Translational Science Award) program within NCRR?

In the "NCRR Program Summaries" document, many NCRR programs are vital to NIH and the research communities. For example, "The R21 Instrumentation Development program (\$11.8 M) is unique at NIH, providing support specifically for new or improved instrumentation for biomedical research." Under the proposed arrangement, the most of these programs will become a part of "interim infrastructure unit", which will last for about one year (per teleconference conversation). How realistic is it for NIH to find the permanent home of each program within one year? If these programs are very compatible with other institutes/centers, they were unlikely placed in NCRR at the first place. If finding a permanent home lasts longer, what are the impacts of the "interim" status on the existing awards, program managers/stuffs, and more importantly, future awards?

In the interview with *Science*, Dr. Collins (NIH director) said that NIH could not discuss publicly the possible dismantling of NCRR before informing the congress, but why could NIH publicly discuss the formation of the new translational center?

Thank you for the opportunity to express my concerns.

Best regards,

Hugh

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