

**Welcome and Presentation of Certificates of Appreciation**  
*Raynard Kington, M.D., Ph.D.*

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DR. KINGTON: My name is Raynard Kington, the deputy director of NIH. Good morning and welcome. It's a pleasure to be here representing Secretary Thompson and Dr. Zerhouni, the director of NIH, in opening the fifth meeting of the Secretary's Advisory Committee on Genetics, Health, and Society. This committee's work is increasingly important in light of ongoing developments in genetics and genomics. Your service on this committee helps in the Department, as well as other agencies represented around the table, to address and stay abreast of the broad array of complex medical, scientific, ethical, legal, and social issues raised by the development and use of genetics and genomic technologies, and we greatly appreciate your commitment to this work.

I'm here not only to welcome all of you to the meeting but also to mark several important changes in the committee's membership and leadership, and to honor the service of three exceptional people, only two of which, I believe, are here.

First I'd like to begin by recognizing Dr. Edward McCabe, the first chair of the committee. The Secretary appointed Dr. McCabe for his expertise and knowledge of the field and exceptional leadership qualities, and he did not disappoint. He was also appointed to provide a smooth transition between the predecessor committee, the Secretary's Advisory Committee on Genetic Testing, and this committee, which Dr. McCabe chaired for three years.

On behalf of the Secretary, let me thank you, Dr. McCabe, for your service over the past five years to the HHS mission to improve health and for your dedication as chair of the committee. You have ably guided the committee through its first year of life, through a systematic review and priority-setting process that led to the committee's study priorities, and through the development of consensus recommendations to the Secretary on genetic discrimination, genetics education for health professionals, and direct-to-consumer marketing of genetic tests. Your leadership really has provided the committee with a firm foundation for future work, and we've appreciated your service and all of the extra time the position of the chair involves.

We want to acknowledge your leadership demonstrated in the transition of the previous committee to the current committee, and as a token of our appreciation it's my pleasure to give you this certificate from the Secretary recognizing your service to the committee.

(Applause.)

DR. KINGTON: Another plaque, I'm sure.

(Laughter.)

DR. KINGTON: We'd also like to thank two members of the committee whose service is ending. Kim Zellmer and Brad Margus were appointed for their knowledge of consumer issues, bringing to the proceedings their own families' experiences with genetic disorders. They've each devoted an extraordinary amount of time and energy to the work of the committee both during and between meetings, and they have contributed in many ways to advancing our understanding of the impact of genetic and genomic technologies on families, individuals, and society.

Ms. Zellmer, on behalf of the Secretary, let me thank you for your work and commitment. I know that your personal experiences provided you with insights that have been extraordinarily

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important to the committee's deliberations. Your contributions to the committee's work on priority setting and genetics education have been especially valuable, and we've appreciated your service enormously. We know that these are incredibly time-consuming appointments to committees like this, and we appreciate your time.

If you could come forward, another plaque.

(Applause.)

DR. KINGTON: Mr. Margus is not here. However, let me still thank him for all of his work and commitment to the committee. He, too, has brought important insights and perspectives, personal and professional, to the deliberations of the committee, particularly in the area of work on direct-to-consumer marketing. That's been particularly invaluable, and we have a plaque for him as well which we will deliver to him when he arrives.

Both of you can consider yourselves emeritus members of the committee, which means that you can be called upon at any time to work more.

(Laughter.)

DR. KINGTON: The challenges posed by genetic and genomic technologies are in many ways just beginning, and this committee is going to be incredibly valuable for the foreseeable future. As we look forward, we are pleased that we were able to identify an extraordinary person to follow as chair.

As I was driving over from the NIH, I realized that I knew Dr. Reed Tuckson for almost 20 years. Dr. Tuckson was two years ahead of me in the Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholars Training Program at the University of Pennsylvania, and when I arrived fresh from my medical residency, all of the cohort of people who began when I began were told in no uncertain terms that the bar had been raised considerably in terms of our performance, and that Reed in particular was going to be a tough act to follow.

For the last almost 20 years, I've counted on Reed as a colleague and friend and mentor and have not hesitated to call upon him whenever necessary. We crossed paths repeatedly when he was president of the Charles Drew University in Los Angeles and I was at the RAND Corporation, and then later. Most recently he agreed to serve on one of the most difficult committees we have had recently, and that's the NIH Blue Ribbon Task Force on Conflict of Interest policies, which required an extraordinary time investment over a very short period of time in advising us on how to deal with an issue that's of great importance to the future of the agency.

Clearly, Dr. Tuckson has a tough act to follow as well here, but we know that you're up to the task and we have every confidence that you will, as you always do, perform admirably and make us all feel that we should work harder. Welcome, and I'll pass it off to you, Reed.

DR. TUCKSON: Thank you very much. Thank you for that.