



**Department of Neurosciences**  
173 Ashley Avenue – Suite 403 BSB  
PO Box 250510  
Charleston SC 29425

Ph (843) 792-2005  
FAX (843) 792-4423

May 22, 2010

William Roper, MD  
UNC School of Medicine  
Chapel Hill

Dear Dr Roper

I would like to thank you and your committee for permitting a brief comment from me as you struggle with recommending a strategy for the future of NIDA and NIAAA. After my morning with you, and hearing the various testimonies, I am sympathetic with the difficult politics and multiple realities you are trying to synthesize.

In addition to thanks, the purpose of this note is to indulge you briefly in my own sense is that the partial merger plan you are considering will not bring about the hoped for efficiencies in knowledge growth and clinical application for the field of addiction. Unless there is a full merger, with a single leader, council, IRP, etc, I believe you will not affect the needed changes. Everyone agrees that the biology underlying addiction has large arenas of overlap between different drugs, and most would agree that ameliorating addiction relies ultimately on understanding the biology of addiction. It is the sociological impact of alcohol versus other drugs that seems to be less overlapping, and this results largely from alcohol being legal. Nicotine is also legal and as you heard in testimony, marijuana is likely to become so. It is arguably more efficient to deal with all legal drugs and the associated sociology and treatment implementation of these drugs under a single administrative roof. Thus, as cures and treatment protocols for one or the other drug emerge, this knowledge can more readily be applied to the other legal drugs.

I urge the committee to take the more courageous and more difficult path, but the path of greatest future impact, and recommend implementing a full merger of the institutes. Again, thank you for your time and patience.

Best of luck,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Kalivas", is located below the text "Best of luck,".

Peter Kalivas, Ph.D.  
Professor and co-Chair

**TAB 3 – July 26, 2010**

Dear Dr. Augustine,

As you know, I have a particular interest in the SUAA discussions around substance use, abuse, and addiction. On behalf of the International Certification and Reciprocity Consortium, I have submitted both written and oral comments on the record to the SMRB. I watched the June 10 videocast of the NIH Advisory Committee to the Director, and was particularly intrigued by the comments of National Institute on Neurological Disorders and Stroke Director Dr. Story Landis. The NIH Neuroscience Blueprint has been used as a model by those advocating some sort of "functional" reorganization of substance use, abuse, and addiction research at NIH. Dr. Landis is a co-chair of this effort, and as she said, is a big supporter. She also said that, in the context of the SUAA discussions using the Blueprint as a model would be a mistake, that it would not accomplish the goals under discussion by the SUAA and SMRB. She specifically said that to accomplish those goals, a merger of NIDA and NIAAA would be the right path to take.

"[The Blueprint] was a voluntary aggregation - Dr. Zerhouni suggested it, we had already been discussing it, and accomplished that kind of cooperation in the intramural program.....it was a voluntary aggregation, we all agreed to put money in the pot, and I think it works extraordinarily well as a mechanism for the neuroscience institutes to collaborate and work together.

However, having seen the Blueprint in action I personally don't believe that's the best solution for accomplishing the kinds of science that really needs to be done in this very important area of research, and if I were on that subcommittee I'd be voting for a merger. And I could tell you more about why I don't think it's the appropriate thing....but I don't think it's the right model.....I just don't think it would accomplish what needs to be done here scientifically."

Given the current and ongoing discussion within the SUAA and overall SMRB, I think this is a crucial comment that should be shared with all members.

Thank you for your time.

Best,

Andrew

Andrew Kessler  
Principal  
Slingshot Solutions  
PO Box 1315  
Annandale VA 22003  
[Andrew@slingshotsolutions.net](mailto:Andrew@slingshotsolutions.net)  
[www.slingshotsolutions.net](http://www.slingshotsolutions.net)  
(571) 426-0297

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May 24, 2010

Mr. Norman Augustine, Chairman  
Scientific Management Review Board, OD, NIH  
Building 1, Room 103  
9000 Rockville Pike  
Bethesda, MD 20892

Dear Chairman Augustine:

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to testify on May 18 at the Scientific Management Review Board meeting in Bethesda, MD. I have great respect for the work that the SMRB has been doing for the past year under your leadership and look forward to your continued efforts to assure that NIH functions in a manner that maximizes benefits to the American people.

As you move toward resolution of the SUAA-related issues before the Board, I would ask that you keep in mind a couple of key points I made in my testimony:

- A significant portion of the NIAAA portfolio, including research into alcohol-related liver disease, is not addiction-centric and will be orphaned by a structural merger.
- No less than 30,000 Americans die every year from alcohol-related liver disease.
- Many key scientific concepts, with applicability beyond alcohol, have resulted from NIAAA-funded research.

The functional reorganization that has been discussed extensively in the meeting and in previous meetings clearly protects those areas of research that are not addiction-related while assuring that there is maximum coordination among the minority portion of the research portfolio that is addiction-related.

As this process moves toward its conclusion, we respectfully request your support for proceeding with a functional merger of the appropriate elements to maximize the efficiencies between the institutes while retaining those elements such as alcohol-related liver research in their current, highly successful format.

Thank you for your consideration of our position and for your service in this important undertaking.

Sincerely,

Dr. Arun Sanyal  
AASLD President