



MAY 29 2009

Waldo Concepcion, M.D.
Associate Professor of Surgery
Stanford University School of Medicine
750 Welch Road, Suite 319
Palo Alto CA 94304

Dear Dr. Concepcion,

Thank you for your letter of May 13, 2009, regarding National Institutes of Health (NIH) funding for research on hepatitis C virus (HCV). I am pleased to have the opportunity to address the issues you raised in your letter.

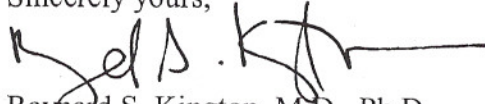
You indicated that NIH has misdirected millions of HCV research dollars to research on HIV/AIDS, HIV/HCV co-infection, and substance abuse. In fact, there is no Congressional appropriation for HCV research at NIH and, therefore, no misdirection of HCV research funds. NIH has no budget allocation or specific level that it must adhere to for this research area. The dollars reported for HCV research in the NIH Research Portfolio Online Reporting Tool (RePORT) represent actual annual support for this area of research rather than an annual appropriation.

On the other hand, NIH does have an appropriation for HIV/AIDS research. In addition to funding HIV/AIDS projects, this appropriation can be used to fund projects that address conditions that co-exist with HIV/AIDS, including HCV. This is the case with the research projects you have identified. In fact, if you retrieve the abstracts for the projects you listed in your letter, you will see that these projects are studying both HCV and HIV/AIDS. Contrary to the assertions in your letter that HIV/AIDS research is being conducted with funds allocated to HCV research, the opposite is true. HCV research is being conducted with funds allocated to HIV/AIDS research. Therefore, research on HCV has benefited greatly from funds appropriated for HIV/AIDS research.

Page 2 – Waldo Concepcion, M.D.

I hope that this information has provided clarity about NIH funding for HCV and HIV/AIDS research. Thank you for your interest and for your support for biomedical research.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ray S. Kington', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Raymond S. Kington, M.D., Ph.D.
Acting Director

cc:

Dr. Darling

Dr. Fung

Dr. Gish

Dr. Rossaro

Mr. Hill

Mr. Remak