

Dear Dr. Varmus,

In late May, the Director's Consumer Liaison Group (DCLG) met in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. During the course of this meeting, the Board discussed the lack of awareness and varying levels of understanding that both policy makers and the public have regarding NCI's role and the important work being done and funded by NCI. The Board concluded that one approach to addressing this problem is for grantee institutions to consistently acknowledge NCI as a source of funding when disseminating information about research activities and findings to all audiences. It is the understanding of the Board that current NIH Grants Policy directs grantees to acknowledge when a project or program is funded by the NIH. Specifically, *Section 4.2.1 Acknowledgment of Federal Funding* states:

*All HHS grantees must acknowledge Federal funding when issuing statements, press releases, requests for proposals, bid invitations, and other documents describing projects or programs funded in whole or in part with Federal money.*

While this policy statement is clear, it is the understanding of the Board that the policy is not consistently followed by grantee institutions.

The DCLG considers this to be a significant missed opportunity for the Institute and grantees alike. The public is often unaware of the role and impact of biomedical research, and both the public and most policy makers do not understand the significant role the NCI plays in funding cancer research across the United States. This is especially troubling given the fact that over 75% of NCI funding is awarded to extramural researchers across the nation.

Public support for NCI begins with awareness of the work being done by NCI-funded grant recipients in communities everywhere. Grantees and the NCI have converging priorities and it behooves grantee institutions to acknowledge NCI as the source of that funding, thus creating enthusiasm for future funding. The board believes that once institutions realize the benefit that acknowledging NCI funding can have, they are likely to follow the existing policy. This will ultimately result in increased awareness for the Institute through mechanisms and networks that are already in place.

To accomplish this goal, acknowledgement of NCI funding should be clear and concise. Language should include a specific reference to NCI as the funder, state that NCI is part of the National Institutes of Health, and note the grant number under which the funding was awarded. The DCLG would like to collaborate with NCI to communicate with grantee institutions the value of acknowledging NCI funding. The DCLG believes such an effort will promote awareness and a better understanding of NCI's role and the critical work being conducted at NCI and funded by NCI throughout the nation and globally.

As always, the DCLG looks forward to working together on issues important to the NCI and the advocacy community. The membership is honored to serve as advisors to the NCI and appreciates the opportunity to represent the cancer research advocacy community and address non-scientific barriers to research.

8.31.11  
Date

  
Chair, Director's Consumer Liaison Group