

## Consumers for Dental Choice

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October 26, 2004

Elias H. Zerhouni, M.D., Director  
Suzanne J. Servis,  
National Institutes of Health

Re: Case 2004-99  
Second submission from Consumers for Dental Choice, re:  
NIH investigation of contract irregularities in NIDCR's contract with  
LSRO and BETAH

Dear Dr. Zerhouni and Ms. Servis:

Thank you, Director Zerhouni, for your letter of October 5, and thank you, OMA Director Servis, for your letter of October 15 – both in reply to our submission of August 16, 2004. The contract violations and other irregularities engineered by NIDCR Director Lawrence Tabak and his assistant Norman Braveman (along with FDA's Susan Runner) in the LSRO/BETAH deal merit a thorough, impartial investigation. Tabak and Braveman engineered the outcome, in advance, to further their agenda of protecting mercury dental fillings from scientific scrutiny: records attached herein show they secretly handpicked the consultant with no RFP, shunned open competitive bidding, prepared a blueprint with false claims about mercury fillings to obtain the desired result, attempted a façade of legality by superimposing a strawperson contractor, insisted on panelists with no experience researching mercury fillings, stonewalled requests for information, and ran the “independent” study behind closed doors to shut the public out of the process.

Based on Tabak's letter to Congress covering up what he did, and based on his entire track record at NIDCR in the amalgam area, we encourage you to investigate two related matters: (1) Director Tabak's false and misleading testimony to Congress claiming that BETAH identified LSRO when in reality it was Braveman, a point known to Tabak via e-mails; and (2) a pattern of behavior by Tabak and Braveman to block any independent review of the science on mercury fillings via hiring mercury-friendly dentists whose views are already known, not independent toxicologists, to conduct irregular studies, and representing to the taxpayers that they are doing independent studies when in fact they are hiring dentist colleagues who are biased or unqualified, and thus wasting millions of dollars.

Following is our three-part supplemental submission:

- I. Summary of the 16 issues
- II. Evidence showing violations for each of these 16 issues
- III. Proposed remedy against NIH employees Tabak, Braveman, and Blevins, and against contractors LSRO Inc. and BETAH Associates

Sincerely,

Charles G. Brown

cc—Maritza Carpenter, CPA