



National Institutes of Health  
National Heart, Lung, and  
Blood Institute  
Bethesda, Maryland 20892

December 16, 2009

John Ossipinsky, LMT  
Lymphatic Wellness Center  
15282 W. Brookside Lane #110  
Surprise, Arizona 85374

Dear Mr. Ossipinsky:

Thank you for your letter of November 18 to Secretary Sebelius of the Department of Health and Human Services. Your letter was forwarded to my office for reply since the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) funds a large component of lymphatic research supported by the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

We agree with you that there is a clear need to understand the biology of the lymphatic system in health and disease. The NHLBI has been aware of this and, in calendar year 2000, issued the first of four announcements inviting the research community to submit research applications focusing on this area of investigation. To date, the NIH has received 136 applications focusing on lymphatic research and has funded 40 of those applications, averaging \$6M in total costs. These requests have been and continue to be in partnership with the National Cancer Institute, the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, the National Institute of Nursing Research, and the Eunice B. Schriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development.

We have supported five conferences and one working group since 2000 in the area of lymphatic research. Through the use of the Conference Grant (R13) mechanism, the NHLBI supported Gordon Conference grants in 2004 (Ventura, CA), 2006 (Switzerland), and 2008 (Ventura, CA). Additionally, two NIH conferences on lymphatic disease were held in 2000 and 2002. Finally, there was a Trans-NIH Working Group on lymphatic biology and disease held in Washington, D.C. in 2007. All of these meetings brought together nationally and internationally recognized investigators involved with lymphatic research to meet and discuss the current state of knowledge of lymphatic biology and disease and provide ideas and recommendations for future directions.

Our commitment to lymphatic research is real as measured by the large number of publications since the release of our announcements and the increasing level of resources we continue to provide to support this important area of biomedical research.

Page 2 – Mr. John Ossipinsky

If you wish to discuss further the areas of lymphatic research, please contact my colleague, [REDACTED], at [REDACTED] or by email [REDACTED]

With best regards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Susan B. Shurin".

Susan B. Shurin, M.D.  
Acting Director