



August 28, 2006

Duane Alexander, MD  
Director  
National Institute of Child Health  
And Human Development  
National Institutes of Health  
Building 31  
31 Center Drive MSC 2425  
Bethesda, MD 20892-2425

Dear Dr. Alexander:

The American Association for Clinical Chemistry (AACC) endorses the National Institutes of Health's National Children's Study (NCS). We believe this long term study, which will examine the effects of environmental influences on the health and development of more than 100,000 children, will result in significant advances in pediatric care.

Each year, the costs associated with conditions under review by this study, such as autism, developmental disabilities, asthma and obesity exceed \$269 billion annually. If the study generates cost savings as little as one percent, it will have paid for the entire cost of the 20 year project. We believe the potential health gains for our children, in addition to the potential cost savings likely to result from this study, warrant moving forward expeditiously on this project.

Further, AACC supports the study approach outlined by the Institute. We believe a federal-private partnership, which encourages the government agencies, professional societies, universities, and private sector to collaborate with one another will create the synergy needed to sustain this important endeavor. Also, we agree that releasing data on an ongoing basis will speed up the discovery process and lead to earlier advances. AACC looks forward to working with you as this study moves forward.

By way of background, AACC is the principal association of professional laboratory scientists--including MDs, PhDs and medical technologists. AACC's members develop and use chemical concepts, procedures, techniques and instrumentation in health-related investigations and work in hospitals, independent laboratories and the diagnostics industry worldwide. The AACC provides international leadership in advancing the practice and profession of clinical laboratory science and its application to health care. If you have any questions, please call me at (510) 231-1728, or Vince Stine, PhD, Director, Government Affairs, at (202) 835-8721.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John E. Sherwin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J".

John E. Sherwin, PhD  
President, AACC