



3 May 2005

National Institute for
Occupational Safety and Health
Centers for Disease Control
and Prevention (CDC)
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20201

Framework Committee for the Evaluation of NIOSH Research Programs
The National Academies
500 Fifth Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001

Dear Member of the Framework Committee:

Thank you for agreeing to assist the National Academies with the evaluation of NIOSH scientific research programs. Your commitment to this evaluation process will be an important contribution to the field of occupational safety and health. I commend the National Academies on its selection of you and your colleagues for the Framework Committee. Together, you have a broad and deep mix of experience in the field of occupational safety and health. I am confident that your skills will serve both NIOSH and the American worker well.

We are asking you to organize, set standards and methods, and conduct evaluations of fifteen of our research programs. The purpose of your evaluations is to judge the extent to which our science is relevant to real world occupational safety and health problems; the extent to which our science meets the highest scientific quality standards for which we can strive; and the extent to which our science achieves the greatest impact it possibly can. Through these evaluations, we want to know where we are doing well and where we are not. Where we are not doing well, we want specific guidance about how to improve. Your development of clear and consistently-applied evaluation criteria and methods will help assure that these program evaluations will be most helpful to us.

Expert judgment, such as you have agreed to provide through the National Academies, is recognized as one of the best ways to evaluate scientific research and development programs, programs that are characterized by multiple causal inputs and outcomes that often take time to realize. NIOSH believes that the key to the success of these evaluations is robust interaction between you and us. Your evaluations will be best when you have all the information and data you need. NIOSH realizes that we must be the source for much of that data and we pledge to provide you with what you need in a timely manner so that you can do fulfill your mission. In fulfilling your mission, you help us fulfill our statutory mission.

NIOSH very much looks forward to utilizing the advice and recommendations from your evaluations. By working together, we can greatly improve the safety and health of American workers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Howard", written over a horizontal line.

John Howard, M.D.
Director