



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

SEP 26 2007

THE ADMINISTRATOR

Melanie A. Marty, Ph.D.
Chair
Children's Health Protection Advisory Committee
Cal/EPA Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment
1515 Clay Street, 16th Floor
Oakland, California 94612

Dear Dr. Marty:

Thank you for forwarding both the recommendations made by the Children's Health Protection Advisory Committee and the findings document issued by the Board of Scientific Counselors-CHPAC Workgroup pertaining to the research translation and future of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency/National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences Children's Environmental Health Centers. The Workgroup's review and CHPAC's reflections are both appreciated and timely.

As we prepare for the future, it is rewarding to read CHPAC's assessment that the basic science, exposure, epidemiology, and intervention research supported by EPA's Office of Research and Development in the Children's Centers has been useful to both scientists and the public in the development of effective policies to better protect children's health.

Currently ORD's Science to Achieve Results grants program, which supports the Children's Centers, is considering the scientific contributions the Children's Centers have produced over the past nine years. Your efforts to document specific ways in which the research results and the community-based methods of the Children's Centers have affected public policy and promoted children's health protection at multiple levels will contribute to ORD's decision on the future directions of children's environmental health research.

ORD will strongly consider CHPAC's recommendations, including:

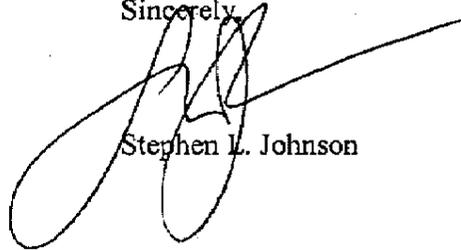
- sustaining community-based approaches in children's environmental health research and outreach;
- diversifying translation and finding ways to encourage programmatic enhancements;
- promoting increased interconnectedness between research groups and clinical partners; and
- diversifying and strengthening partnerships with other federal agencies with similar children's health missions.

It is not possible, at this time, to definitively state our level of support or structure of the future children's health research program. Nevertheless, the EPA remains committed to building on both the strengths and the lessons provided by the current program. Recent award announcements for a new Children's Center at Duke University, the launching of the Markers of Autism Risk in Babies-Learning Early Signs study at the University of California at Davis, and ORD's leadership role in the National Children's Study exemplify this commitment.

The work of the BOSC-CHPAC Workgroup and CHPAC's recommendations offer specific, valuable approaches for strengthening our ability to rapidly move scientific discovery into risk management and exposure prevention.

Again, thank you for your appreciation of EPA's research program and insight on how it can continue to be "an excellent investment that provides both short- and long-term benefits to children's health."

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S. Johnson', written over a horizontal line.

Stephen L. Johnson