

December 8, 2015

Antonello Bonci, M.D., Scientific Director  
Intramural Research Program  
National Institute on Drug Abuse  
6001 Executive Boulevard  
Bethesda, MD 20892-9561

Dear Dr. Bonci:

We have recently learned that Ms. Marilyn Huestis, Chief, Chemistry and Drug Metabolism, Intramural Research Program (IRP), will be retiring from government service. We wish to take this opportunity to thank her and the IRP for their outstanding contribution to public health and safety.

My staff has worked closely with Ms. Huestis for over 8 years and has witnessed firsthand her tireless and professional dedication to public service during her presentations at professional societies, industry conferences, and interagency meetings that assessed the efficacy of the Federal drug testing program. Ms. Huestis' exceptional service was instrumental countless times during the revision of Federal drug testing guidance, evaluation of laboratory practices, identification of challenges requiring additional research, and discussion of important public health and safety considerations associated with any planned regulatory action to combat substance abuse. Her questioning attitude, desire to seek the scientific truth, and extraordinary ability to communicate and collaborate were essential in the development of policy and guidance, building of strong partnerships, and achieving interagency consensus. We believe her presence and actions resulted in change for the betterment of all Federal employees and members of the public subject to Federal drug testing.

I also would like to commend Ms. Huestis' extraordinary character, devotion, and intrinsic abilities that positively influenced my staff. This occurred not only through her articulation of scientific fact, but by her creation of professional relationships and lasting friendships. The time she spent devoted to informing my staff of technical and policy considerations directly contributed to our evaluation of issues that have occurred at our Nation's nuclear power plants due, in part, to impairing substances. Most notably, my staff benefitted from Ms. Huestis' knowledge of forensic toxicology and clinical studies that shined light on the physiological and psychological effects of marijuana, toxicology of synthetic marijuana and other Schedules I and II drugs, and the efficacy of using hair and oral fluid as test matrices. As a result, she positively informed our policy decisions associated with Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 26, "Fitness for Duty Programs," and directly contributed to our effective regulatory oversight of our Nation's commercial nuclear power plants by assuring that those individuals operating, maintaining, and securing these facilities can safely and competently perform their duties.

Ms. Huestis' outstanding dedication, contribution, and professionalism are in keeping with the finest traditions of government service and reflect great credit upon her and the National Institutes of Health. Her work was instrumental to the NRC as we rely on NIDA as the preeminent Federal agency researching impairment caused by controlled substances. Since this may have a direct affect on human performance at our Nation's commercial nuclear facilities, your findings and future research will continue to inform our policy decisions

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2

associated with Part 26 and contribute to public health and safety. As such, we look forward to continuing this relationship with her replacement. We will miss Ms. Huestis and wish her and her family the best. Please extend our deepest appreciation to her.

Sincerely,

**/RA/**

Melanie A. Galloway, Director  
Division of Security Policy  
Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response

A. Bonci

2

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**/RA/**

Melanie A. Galloway, Director  
Division of Security Policy  
Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response

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