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To the RSA Membership:

I am extremely pleased to let you know that this morning the Director of NIH, Dr. Francis Collins, announced that NIH will pursue a functional rather than a structural integration of alcohol and drug use, abuse, and addiction-related research at NIH. This means that NIAAA and NIDA will each continue as separate NIH institutes. The complete announcement can be found at: [http://www.nih.gov/about/director/11162012\\_statement\\_suaa.htm](http://www.nih.gov/about/director/11162012_statement_suaa.htm). Initial information on the functional integration can be found at: <http://feedback.nih.gov:80/index.php/category/suaa/>.

I believe that this decision reflects the thoughtful and articulate presentation of the science of our field by RSA and our members. It seems that the leadership of NIH recognized both the complexity of our unique scientific field and the value of collaborative science across NIH institutes that focus on specific health problems.

I particularly want to thank my predecessors as RSA president, Mark Goldman, Bob Messing, Sara Jo Nixon, and Peter Monti, who provided leadership to these discussions in the past few years. I also would like to express appreciation to the RSA Government Affairs and Advocacy Committee (GAAC) and George Olsen from Williams and Jensen for their work. Most important, this result could not have been achieved without the active engagement of so many RSA members who worked countless hours on this issue over the last several years.

I look forward to the opportunity for RSA to continue to provide leadership to the alcohol research community, to contribute to implementing the functional integration plan, and to find new ways to foster scientific collaborations within the broader fields of alcohol and drug research by working with other institutes and organizations to achieve the synergies that will advance science in the spirit of Dr. Collin's announcement.

Warm Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Barbara S. McCrady'.

Barbara S. McCrady, Ph.D.

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