



MAR 07 2008

National Institutes of Health
Bethesda, Maryland 20892

TO: See Below
FROM: Director, NIH
SUBJECT: Designation of Risk Management Officers--ACTION

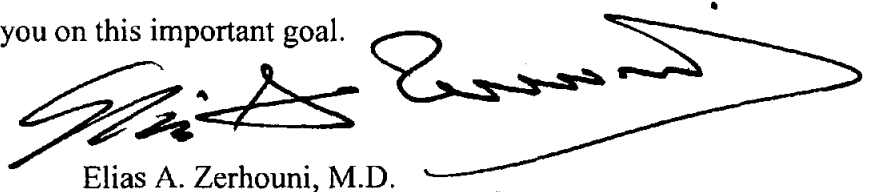
As we have discussed on many occasions, we have been working diligently with your staffs on the Risk Management Program and much progress has been made. Since 2006, we have brought a contractor on board to modernize our Risk Management Program to ensure the overall efficiency, effectiveness, accountability, and integrity of our work. In 2007, we requested and collected signed Assurance Statements from all Institutes and Centers and OD Offices certifying that FMFIA objectives are being met. This year, formative work for developing a Risk Assessment methodology and assessment tools has been done and is being pilot-tested in select NIH organizations.

While these accomplishments have set the standards high, we also recognize that continued success in implementing and managing this program requires the active participation and stewardship of all OD Offices and ICs. Therefore, I am asking you to designate a senior-level individual as Risk Management Officer to represent your organization. I am also announcing the establishment of a Risk Management Officers' Council to assist with the implementation and ongoing operation of the Risk Management Program.

Please provide the name of your Risk Management Officer to Ms. Suzanne J. Servis, Director of the Office of Management Assessment, by March 20.

You will be hearing more in the weeks ahead about the role of the Risk Management Officer. We believe that by strengthening our management of risks across all programs and activities, we can better support our scientific mission and maximize our resources.

I am looking forward to working with you on this important goal.



Elias A. Zerhouni, M.D.

Addressees:

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cc:

OD Senior Staff

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