

From: Tabak, Lawrence (NIH/OD) [E]
Sent: Sun, 17 Oct 2021 08:29:04 -0500
To: Berg, Jeremy
Cc: Burklow, John (NIH/OD) [E]; Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]
Subject: Re: Fetal tissue research-University of Pittsburgh

Mike indicated that it is arranged (dropping FC to bcc line).
Larry

From: Jeremy Berg <jberg@pitt.edu>
Date: Sunday, October 17, 2021 at 9:27 AM
To: "Tabak, Lawrence (NIH/OD) [E]" <lawrence.tabak@nih.gov>
Cc: Francis Collins <collinsf@od.nih.gov>, "Burklow, John (NIH/OD) [E]" <burklowj@od.nih.gov>, "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" <michael.lauer@nih.gov>
Subject: Re: Fetal tissue research-University of Pittsburgh

Thanks, Larry. Has this meeting been arranged or is this still to be done?

Best, Jeremy

Jeremy M. Berg, Ph.D.
University of Pittsburgh
Associate Senior Vice Chancellor for Science Strategy and Planning
in the Health Sciences
Professor of Computational and Systems Biology
3550 Terrace Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15213
(412)624-1223
 (b) (6) (cell)
jberg@pitt.edu

From: Tabak, Lawrence (NIH/OD) [E] <lawrence.tabak@nih.gov>
Date: Sunday, October 17, 2021 at 9:18 AM
To: Berg, Jeremy <jberg@pitt.edu>
Cc: Collins, Francis (NIH/OD) [E] <collinsf@od.nih.gov>, Burklow, John (NIH/OD) [E] <burklowj@od.nih.gov>, Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] <michael.lauer@nih.gov>
Subject: Re: Fetal tissue research-University of Pittsburgh

Jeremy,

Mike Lauer (added to this thread) will be meeting with your VPR on Wednesday. Based upon the outcome of that meeting, Mike and I are willing to meet with your Chancellor if that is still desired.

Best wishes,
Larry

Lawrence A. Tabak, DDS, PhD
Principal Deputy Director, NIH

From: Jeremy Berg <jberg@pitt.edu>
Date: Saturday, October 16, 2021 at 9:50 AM
To: Francis Collins <collinsf@od.nih.gov>
Cc: "Tabak, Lawrence (NIH/OD) [E]" <lawrence.tabak@nih.gov>, "Burklow, John (NIH/OD) [E]" <burklowj@od.nih.gov>
Subject: Fetal tissue research-University of Pittsburgh

Hi Francis:

I write regarding ongoing efforts to undermine important science using fetal tissue. As you no doubt know, various public universities have been the subject of rotating attacks about research using fetal tissue, sometimes citing NIH support for the research. It is now the University of Pittsburgh turn in the spotlight. The event that triggered this is the publication of a paper (attached) on grafting fetal skin onto rodents supported by an R21 from NIAID (<https://reporter.nih.gov/search/cbh4-6MG-UCNgeeBHC15ew/project-details/9599671>). I provide this only for background as the details do not matter for the issue I am raising.

Pitt's response to concerns raised by state legislators and various news outlets has been to commission an outside review of Pitt's practices and compliance. The University believes that all appropriate practices and laws have been followed. However, this outside review has been met with additional complaints (see <https://www.foxnews.com/us/pittsburgh-investigation-fetal-tissue-probe-cone-silence>).

We have been discussing these issues and it seems that this is an organized attempt to delegitimize science based on fetal tissue rather than to identify misbehavior (although, of course, any misbehavior does create opportunities for outrage). In light of this, we feel that the scientific community would benefit if

more institutions could stand together to take some of the power out of the one-at-a-time strategy that appears to be operating.

Our Chancellor Pat Gallagher, former Director of NIST and your Senate confirmation colleague would like the opportunity to discuss this with you or other appropriate individuals at NIH via whatever venue would be preferred (phone, Zoom, in Bethesda).

If this is possible, please let me know the best way to make the appropriate arrangements.

Thank you for your consideration and best wishes for the remainder of your time at NIH and for the next phase.

Best, Jeremy

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Pittsburgh, PA 15213
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[REDACTED] (b) (6) (cell)
jberg@pitt.edu

From: Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E]
Sent: Sun, 17 Oct 2021 08:48:42 -0500
To: Hallett, Adrienne (NIH/OD) [E]; Tabak, Lawrence (NIH/OD) [E]; Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]; Collins, Francis (NIH/OD) [E]; Burklow, John (NIH/OD) [E]; Jorgenson, Lyric (NIH/OD) [E]; Wood, Gretchen (NIH/OD) [E]
Subject: Re: Fetal tissue research-University of Pittsburgh

I'll send fact sheet and QA via SEFT. Some things waiting for OER meeting to be answered.

Renate Myles

Acting Associate Director for Communications and Public Liaison

Acting Director, Office of Communications and Public Liaison

National Institutes of Health

301-435-3638

From: Hallett, Adrienne (NIH/OD) [E] <adrienne.hallett@nih.gov>

Sent: Sunday, October 17, 2021 9:42:05 AM

To: Tabak, Lawrence (NIH/OD) [E] <lawrence.tabak@nih.gov>; Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] <michael.lauer@nih.gov>; Collins, Francis (NIH/OD) [E] <collinsf@od.nih.gov>; Burklow, John (NIH/OD) [E] <burklowj@od.nih.gov>; Jorgenson, Lyric (NIH/OD) [E] <lyric.jorgenson@nih.gov>; Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E] <mylesr@mail.nih.gov>; Wood, Gretchen (NIH/OD) [E] <woodgs@od.nih.gov>

Subject: Re: Fetal tissue research-University of Pittsburgh

FYI. We are responding to a Congressional letter. The draft is waiting for additional information from Mike's call.

From: Tabak, Lawrence (NIH/OD) [E] <lawrence.tabak@nih.gov>

Sent: Sunday, October 17, 2021 9:15:26 AM

To: Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] <michael.lauer@nih.gov>; Collins, Francis (NIH/OD) [E] <collinsf@od.nih.gov>; Burklow, John (NIH/OD) [E] <burklowj@od.nih.gov>; Hallett, Adrienne (NIH/OD) [E] <adrienne.hallett@nih.gov>; Jorgenson, Lyric (NIH/OD) [E] <lyric.jorgenson@nih.gov>; Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E] <mylesr@mail.nih.gov>; Wood, Gretchen (NIH/OD) [E] <woodgs@od.nih.gov>

Subject: Re: Fetal tissue research-University of Pittsburgh

So in addition to letting Jeremy know that Mike and I are willing to meet with their Chancellor, I will also indicate that Mike is meeting with the VPR on Wed.

From: "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" <michael.lauer@nih.gov>

Date: Saturday, October 16, 2021 at 7:28 PM

To: Francis Collins <collinsf@od.nih.gov>, "Tabak, Lawrence (NIH/OD) [E]" <lawrence.tabak@nih.gov>, "Burklow, John (NIH/OD) [E]" <burklowj@od.nih.gov>, "Hallett, Adrienne (NIH/OD) [E]" <adrienne.hallett@nih.gov>, "Jorgenson, Lyric (NIH/OD) [E]" <lyric.jorgenson@nih.gov>, "Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E]" <mylesr@mail.nih.gov>, "Wood, Gretchen (NIH/OD) [E]" <woodgs@od.nih.gov>

Cc: "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" <michael.lauer@nih.gov>

Subject: Re: Fetal tissue research-University of Pittsburgh

Good evening – We have a Zoom meeting scheduled with the Pitt VPR and team this Wednesday, October 20, at 9:30 AM. That's why I'll be late for Exec Comm – I'll join at 10 AM. So the timing works.

Thanks, Mike

From: "Collins, Francis (NIH/OD) [E]" <collinsf@od.nih.gov>
Date: Saturday, October 16, 2021 at 5:36 PM
To: "Tabak, Lawrence (NIH/OD) [E]" <lawrence.tabak@nih.gov>, "Burklow, John (NIH/OD) [E]" <burklowj@od.nih.gov>, "Hallett, Adrienne (NIH/OD) [E]" <adrienne.hallett@nih.gov>, "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" <michael.lauer@nih.gov>, "Jorgenson, Lyric (NIH/OD) [E]" <lyric.jorgenson@nih.gov>, "Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E]" <mylesr@mail.nih.gov>, "Wood, Gretchen (NIH/OD) [E]" <woodgs@od.nih.gov>
Subject: RE: Fetal tissue research-University of Pittsburgh

That sounds right. +Gretchen

FC

From: Tabak, Lawrence (NIH/OD) [E] <lawrence.tabak@nih.gov>
Sent: Saturday, October 16, 2021 2:07 PM
To: Collins, Francis (NIH/OD) [E] <collinsf@od.nih.gov>; Burklow, John (NIH/OD) [E] <burklowj@od.nih.gov>; Hallett, Adrienne (NIH/OD) [E] <adrienne.hallett@nih.gov>; Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] <michael.lauer@nih.gov>; Jorgenson, Lyric (NIH/OD) [E] <lyric.jorgenson@nih.gov>; Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E] <mylesr@mail.nih.gov>
Subject: Re: Fetal tissue research-University of Pittsburgh

Francis,
I suggest we discuss at ExCom. In the interim, I recommend that I respond to Jeremy and offer to meet with his Chancellor together with Mike Lauer.
Larry

From: "Burklow, John (NIH/OD) [E]" <burklowj@od.nih.gov>
Date: Saturday, October 16, 2021 at 12:38 PM
To: Francis Collins <collinsf@od.nih.gov>, "Tabak, Lawrence (NIH/OD) [E]" <lawrence.tabak@nih.gov>, "Hallett, Adrienne (NIH/OD) [E]" <adrienne.hallett@nih.gov>, "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" <michael.lauer@nih.gov>, "Jorgenson, Lyric (NIH/OD) [E]" <lyric.jorgenson@nih.gov>, "Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E]" <mylesr@mail.nih.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Fetal tissue research-University of Pittsburgh

+ Renate.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Collins, Francis (NIH/OD) [E]" <collinsf@od.nih.gov>
Date: October 16, 2021 at 9:53:00 AM EDT
To: "Tabak, Lawrence (NIH/OD) [E]" <lawrence.tabak@nih.gov>, "Burklow, John (NIH/OD) [E]" <burklowj@od.nih.gov>, "Jorgenson, Lyric (NIH/OD) [E]" <lyric.jorgenson@nih.gov>, "Hallett, Adrienne (NIH/OD) [E]" <adrienne.hallett@nih.gov>, "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" <michael.lauer@nih.gov>
Subject: FW: Fetal tissue research-University of Pittsburgh

Adding Lyric, Adrienne, and Mike.

From: Berg, Jeremy <jberg@pitt.edu>
Sent: Saturday, October 16, 2021 9:50 AM
To: Collins, Francis (NIH/OD) [E] <collinsf@od.nih.gov>
Cc: Tabak, Lawrence (NIH/OD) [E] <lawrence.tabak@nih.gov>; Burklow, John (NIH/OD) [E] <burklowj@od.nih.gov>
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Best, Jeremy

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