

**Subject:** August eNews - Tabak Moves On  
**Date:** Friday, August 20, 2010 12:08 PM  
**From:** Gloria S. Abdin <abdin@uthscsa.edu>  
**To:** Gloria S. Abdin abdin@uthscsa.edu  
**Conversation:** August eNews - Tabak Moves On

**MESSAGE SENT ON BEHALF OF**  
**Dr. Bjorn Steffensen**  
Associate Dean for Research – Dental School  
<http://dental.uthscsa.edu/research/>

**From:** Friends of NIDCR <peter@fnidcr.org>  
**To:** Steffensen, Bjorn  
**Sent:** Fri Aug 20 09:00:41 2010  
**Subject:** [SUSPECTED MARKETING] August eNews - Tabak Moves On

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The graphic features the FNIDCR logo on the left, which includes a stylized head profile with a brain and the text "Friends of the National Institute of Dental & Craniofacial Research" and "FNIDCR". The background of the graphic shows laboratory glassware and a stylized human head. On the right, the word "update" is written in a large, cursive font, followed by "August 2010". Below this, there are several sections of text: "NEWS" with a bullet point about Tabak leaving NIDCR; "NIDCR RESEARCH" with a bullet point about methylation patterns; "LEGISLATIVE UPDATE" with several bullet points about advocacy day, congressional actions, and funding; and "NIDCR & ARRA" with a bullet point about a two-year funding update.

**update** August 2010

**NEWS**

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**News**

**Tabak Leaving NIDCR for**



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## **Bigger Role at NIH**

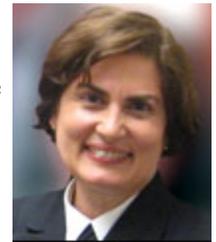
NIH Director Dr. Francis S. Collins announced today the appointment of Lawrence Tabak, DDS, PhD, as the Principal Deputy Director, NIH, effective August 23, 2010, as Raynard Kington departs from the NIH. Dr. Tabak has been the Director of NIDCR since September 2000. He came to the NIH at that time from the School of Medicine and Dentistry at the University of Rochester, where he had most recently been the Senior Associate Dean for Research, Director of the Center for Oral Biology, Professor of Dentistry, and Professor of Biochemistry and Biophysics. Larry's major research focus-he has maintained an active research lab within NIDDK-has been on the biosynthesis and function of mucin-glycoproteins. "We are all familiar with his outstanding service in numerous trans-NIH activities, as Acting Principal Deputy Director from November 2008 to August 2009, and recently as Acting Director of DPCPS" says Collins.



**Lawrence Tabak,  
DDS, PhD**

Friends of NIDCR President Bruce Donoff says "It is with regret that we learned today that Dr. Larry Tabak will be stepping down as Director of the NIDCR, yet excitement for him to assume his new position at NIH. He has been a champion for research that has moved the Institute to new levels of interdisciplinary partnerships and excellence. The Friends wishes him great success in his new demanding role."

"As Larry moves into the Principal Deputy Director position, Isabel Garcia, DDS, MPH, currently Deputy Director of NIDCR, will serve as Acting Director of the Institute. Dr. Garcia, who holds the rank of Rear Admiral in the US Public Health Service, joined NIDCR in 1995 as a Special Assistant for Science Transfer from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, where she was a Health Scientist Administrator. She later directed NIDCR's Office of Science Policy and Analysis before being appointed Deputy Director of the Institute. "I appreciate Isabel's willingness to guide NIDCR while we conduct a search for a new permanent Director," says Dr. Collins.



**Isabel Garcia,  
DDS, MPH**

"I am very grateful for the extraordinary experience and privilege of leading the NIDCR over the past decade" said Tabak. "I am very grateful to Isabel Garcia, NIDCR Deputy Director, who has been a remarkable partner, and I have learned much from her. I am confident that each of you will give Isabel the same support that I so greatly benefited from."

I am grateful for the steadfast support of a number of professional organizations, notably, the AADR, ADEA, ADA and the Friends of NIDCR, whose voluntary members devote much time and effort on behalf of the Institute. I also acknowledge, with thanks, the advice and occasional "tough love" of several patient advocates including **Mary Kaye Richter, Kathy Hammitt** and **Terrie Cowley** (*Editor Note: all three advocates are FNIDCR members*).

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## ***NIDCR Research***

### ***First Comprehensive Look at Methylation Patterns in Salivary Gland Tumors***

In the latter half of the 20th century studies of more than 300 mammalian species showed that salivary glands, because they are non-essential to life, had a greater capacity to evolve than the body's vital organs. In other words, the evolutionary parameters of the liver or kidneys are limited to support their essential functions. That's not the case with salivary glands. Their rapid adaptation served as a primary means for many species to settle into new environments, outcompete their rivals, and fill ecological niches. It explains, for example, why a snake's bite can be deadly, a giraffe readily chews thorns, and a feeding tick can go undetected for many hours.



The above also provides a broad biological framework to consider while thinking about the genetics of human salivary glands. In the May issue of PLoS ONE, NIDCR grantees and colleagues add some thought-provoking data with the results of the first extensive study of DNA methylation patterns in healthy salivary glands and four salivary tumor types (pleomorphic adenoma, adenoid cystic carcinoma, mucoepidermoid carcinoma, and salivary duct carcinoma). DNA methylation occurs when a methyl group attaches often to the promoter region of a gene. The methyl tag alters the gene's ability to interact with needed transcription regulators, thereby turning off the gene. Although DNA methylation often occurs naturally to make one inherited gene dominant over another, tumor cells often co-opt the methylation process early in their development to shut down growth-inhibiting tumor suppressor genes and enable their aberrant behavior. [Read More](#)

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## ***Legislative Update***

### ***Friends of NIDCR Advocacy Day 2010: "Oral Health Research: A Healthier America Starts Here"***

Save the Date! On **Tuesday, September 21, 2010** FNIDCR will host a Capitol Hill briefing titled "Oral Health Research: A Healthier America Starts Here." The briefing will feature researchers, dentists, and patient advocacy representatives, among many others. Please join us along with our friends in the oral health and dental community as we will bring the message of the benefits of medical research at and funded by NIDCR to Washington. More information coming soon!



### ***US Rep. Cummings Agrees to Co-Chair Oral Health Caucus***



US Rep. Elijah Cummings (D-MD)

FNIDCR is proud to announce that U.S. Rep. Elijah Cummings (D-MD) has agreed to co-chair the Congressional Oral Health Caucus. On July 28, 2010, Rep. Cummings met with FNIDCR President Dr. Bruce Donoff, Executive Director Peter Anas and Legislative Director Andrew Kaffes to confirm his acceptance. The Friends of NIDCR was joined by ADEA Director, Center for Public Policy & Advocacy Jack Bresch.



Reps. John Linder (R-GA) and Mike Simpson (R-ID)

Rep. Cummings is well-regarded as a champion of oral health in Congress, introducing legislation to increase dental services in the community and taking to the House Floor to create awareness and speak passionately about the importance of oral health care. In the 111th Congress, he will join Co-Chairs Reps. Mike Simpson (R-ID) and John Linder (R-GA). Rep.

Linder will be retiring at the end of the 111th Congress. The Friends is deeply appreciative of Rep. Linder’s public service and his commitment to oral health will be sorely missed.

### ***FNIDCR Organizes “Courtesy Visits” on Capitol Hill for NIDCR Officials***

FNIDCR recently coordinated a series of “courtesy visits” on Capitol Hill for NIDCR Director Dr. Lawrence Tabak and Deputy Director Dr. Isabel Garcia. Drs. Tabak and Garcia visited the offices of U.S. Reps.:

- Jo Ann Emerson (R-MO)
- Ben Chandler (D-KY)
- Michael Capuano (D-MA), and
- Nita Lowey (D-NY), a senior member of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education.

FNIDCR President Dr. Bruce Donoff, Executive Director Peter Anas and Legislative Director Andrew Kaffes accompanied the NIDCR officials. The purpose of the courtesy visits was to update legislators about the latest developments and advances in medical research being conducted at NIDCR.



*left to right:* FNIDCR Executive Director **Peter Anas**, Rep. **Nita Lowey** (D-NY), NIDCR Director **Dr. Lawrence Tabak**, NIDCR Deputy Director **Dr. Isabel Garcia** and FNIDCR President **Dr. Bruce Donoff**

## ***FY11 Appropriations See Action in July***

### **US Senate**

The Senate Appropriations Committee passed its version of the FY2011 Labor-HHS-Education bill, which appropriates funding for NIH and NIDCR, on July 29, 2010 ( [click here to listen to audio webcast](#)).

The committee appropriated **\$32 billion to NIH**, which is \$1 billion above the FY10 enacted level (3.2% increase).

- The committee appropriated **\$422.8 million to NIDCR**, which is \$9.6 million more than the FY10 enacted level, or a 2.3% increase. The \$422.8 funding level is less than the \$423.5 million recommended by the administration.

In the committee’s report, it acknowledged that NIH “faces an imposing ‘funding cliff’ following the historic increase—nearly \$10.4 Billion—provided by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 [ARRA].” The committee also recognized that the 3.2 percent increase recommended for NIH is less than what would have been recommended in a stronger economic environment and contends the increase keeps up with biomedical inflation. With respect to NIDCR, the committee’s report commented on the work performed on Behavioral Research, Craniofacial Skeleton, and TMJ Disorders at NIDCR. The full Senate body must still act on its appropriations bill before reconciling any differences with the House of Representatives—which isn’t expected to happen until possibly November or early December.

### **U.S. House of Representatives**

The appropriations process is moving a bit slower on the House side with only the Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education marking-up the bill on July 15, 2010. A [summary table](#) released by the subcommittee indicates it also approved a \$1 billion increase for NIH. The bill has yet to be approved by the full committee.

## ***Are You Unhappy with Where Federal Funding Levels Are?***

***Contact Your Legislators during August Recess!***

Contact Your Senators and U.S. Representative today and urge them to support and advance oral health, dental and craniofacial research in the Fiscal Year 2011 Federal Budget by:

1. Telling your member of Congress that you are a constituent from \_\_\_\_\_ [city/town].
2. Urge funding NIDCR at \$480 million ([see FNIDCR Testimony](#)).
3. This funding level allows medical and scientific research initiated by the temporary stimulus funding, which expires at the end of FY10, to continue in: salivary diagnostics, cleft lip/cleft palate studies, and addressing oral health disparities nationwide.
4. Saying “Thank You” for your legislator’s interest in advancing and supporting federally-funded dental and craniofacial research.
5. Requesting a meeting in the congressional district during August recess to discuss the importance of oral health and benefits of medical research to society.

[For more information, please click here.](#)

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## ***NIDCR & ARRA*** ***(American Recovery & Restoration Act)***

### ***Two Year Funding Update***

As you know, NIDCR received \$101,819,000 from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) to fund oral and craniofacial research in fiscal years 2009 and 2010. NIDCR has spent or committed to spend 97% of those funds primarily through a variety of extramural grants. [See the details and chart](#) for a breakdown of NIDCR’s ARRA investment.

### ***[Search ARRA funded NIH projects](#)***

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