



May 10th, 2017

National Prion Disease Pathology Surveillance Center
Institute of Pathology
Case Western Reserve University
Cleveland, Ohio 44106-4907

Dear Dr. Safar and Dr. Cohen:

We are writing on behalf of the American Association of Neuropathologists (AANP) in support of your application to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for renewal of funding for the National Prion Disease Pathology Surveillance Center (NPDPSC). Since the Center's inception in 1997, the AANP and its individual members have been proud supporters and steadfast contributors to the exemplary record of prion surveillance that the Center has achieved and maintained for the United States. Our past and current collaborations facilitate the NPDPSC's primary mandate to characterize the number and types of prion diseases occurring in the United States, particularly variant Creutzfeldt - Jakob disease (vCJD) and other possible zoonotic transmissions, as well to uncover new prion diseases, such as variably protease-sensitive prionopathy (VPSPr) and, potentially, other emerging prion disease variants. With the rapid spread of Chronic Wasting Disease, the Center's surveillance function has never been more essential to the maintenance of public health within the United States.

In addition to this critical surveillance function, the NPDPSC has established itself as a critical reference laboratory and repository of well characterized tissues and body fluids essential for differential diagnostic neuropathology performed at numerous institutions throughout the country. Moreover, the Center's biobanking role comprises an essential component for several externally funded research projects that have already led to improved diagnostics of human prion diseases, as well as insights into the pathogenesis of prion and other related neurodegenerative diseases.

We wish you success in this application!

Sincerely,

Executive Council
American Association of Neuropathologists

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