

James W. Prescott, Ph.D.

Letters of 23 October 2007 to

- 1. Director Elias A. Zerhouni, M.D.
National Institutes of Health**
- 2. Representative Michael Castle
United States House of Representatives**
- 3. Senator Thomas R. Carper
United States Senate**
- 4. Senator Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
United States Senate**

BIOHAVIORAL SYSTEMS

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23 October 2007

Elias A. Zerhouni, M.D.
Director
National Institutes of Health
9000 Rockville Pike
Bethesda, MD 20892

zerhounidirect@nih.gov.

Dear Dr. Zerhouni,

It is well that you launched with the Council of Science Editors the global theme issue on poverty and human development and to examine the research related to this theme. You rightly emphasize that "The scope and diversity of these critical research projects illustrate the complexity of today's major global health challenges that require multi-disciplinary approaches" and "As we begin to reap the benefits of our investment in cutting-edge fields such as genomics, we must ensure that these incredible scientific advances are adapted for effective delivery to all people, including those in resource-poor settings."

Unfortunately, genomics has little to offer in providing a solution to poverty and human development where programs on improving child survival through environmental and nutritional interventions has failed to recognize the extraordinary importance of breastfeeding for infant/child survival; the WHO/UNICEF programs that actively oppose corporate commercial introduction of infant formula milk that replaces breastfeeding mothers in developing countries, which results in impaired brain-behavioral development of the child; and the greater threat of loss of life consequent to violence against mothers and children --a world-wide epidemic-- due to failure of society to support bonding in the maternal-infant / child relationship. The neglect of these issues is inexcusable by the NIH, the Fogarty International Center and the Council of Science Editors.

It is regrettable that you have forgotten an important publication by the NICHD titled *Perspectives on Human Deprivation: Biological, Psychological, and Sociological* (1968) that stated:

As a result of their reviews, the authors of the four chapters are unanimous in urging that high priority and massive support be given to expansion of research in psychosocial deprivation. They stress the necessity for achieving more thorough understanding of the intricate interrelationships of biomedical and social problems in order that national social action programs can be effective and relevant to the populations concerned" (The Preface, Gerald D. Laveck, M.D., Director, NICHD, 1968). (Documents enclosed).

It is unfortunate that the "massive support" for psychosocial deprivation was not forthcoming and that the many other lofty goals spelled out in this document has not been achieved. Similarly for the *1974 NICHD Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect :Issues In Developmental Research*, that was held "in connection with the request, about a year ago by Secretary Weinberger, for increased emphasis on child abuse and child neglect by the agencies of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare", in the Opening Remarks by Gilbert L. Woodside, Ph.D., Acting Director, NICHD, document enclosed.

It is regrettable that Dr. Betty Pickett, Ph.D., Acting Director, NICHD stated to Senator Alan Cranston in a letter of February 19, 1980, that "The NICHD has never supported a program of research on child abuse and neglect"; and that Dr. Alexander, Director, NICHD stated in a letter of December 19, 1991 to Dr. Prescott that "The National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICD) has not supported a program of research on the causes of child abuse and neglect"(letters attached).

My letter to Dr. Insel, Director, NIMH concerning the NIH Conference "Preventing Violence and Related Health-Risking Social Behaviors in Adolescents: An NIH State-of-The Science Conference." (October 13-15, 2004) refused to acknowledge the findings and recommendations of the 1994 Conference on Violence (none implemented) nor has the 2004 Conference on Preventing Violence been published with recommendations for violence prevention. Why? (attached). No response from Dr. Insel was received.

You are reminded of the council of John Bowlby in his 1951 WHO Report on *Maternal Care and Mental Health* that "Deprived children, whether in their homes or out of them, are the source of social infection as real and serious as are carriers of diphtheria and typhoid. And, just as preventive measures have reduced these diseases to negligibly proportions, so can determined actions greatly reduce the number of deprived children in our midst and the growth of adults liable to produce more of them".

The documentation enclosed in support of this letter and additional supporting documentation has been posted in the POLITICS section at <http://www.violence.de>.

George Santayana in *The Life of Reason* (1905) has reminded us: **THOSE WHO CANNOT REMEMBER THE PAST ARE CONDEMNED TO REPEAT IT.**

It is regrettable that the lack of leadership at the NIH on these issues continues to this day, where the health of this nation and the world has been placed in a biomedical straitjacket of genomics, which contributes little to understanding the compromise of health and lives due to depression, violence and the scourge of warfare. It is well known that depression begins with maternal-infant/child separation, which is the genesis of violence--homicidal and suicidal--, the loss of human love.

These are the issues that I addressed when I was Health Scientist Administrator, Developmental Behavioral Biology Program, NICHD (1966-1980), when my 17 year career in federal science administration was unlawfully terminated "For improper use of official position and resources to promote research on 'developmental origins of violence' and 'child Abuse and neglect', subjects that are not within the mission of the NICHD, as part of the programs of this Institute".
(enclosed).

The blatant violation of the truth, denials and false statements to the Congress by the NIH/NICHD has resulted in incalculable harm to mothers, infants and children, where the violence against them has continued unabated and is largely preventable. The suicidal deaths of children over the past quarter of century and the massive psychiatric medication of our children, unheard of a generation or two ago, remains an indictment of the NIH biomedical establishment.

This is a formal request that you reverse my unlawful termination of employment by then Dr. Norman Kretchmer, Director, NICHD/NIH, who exceeded his legal authority in that action; and to acknowledge the rightful role of the biobehavioral sciences, as co-equal to the biomedical sciences, in returning health to this nation. This nation cannot long survive the continuing violence against mothers and her children with

the continuing cover-up of the consequent emotional-social-sexual disorders with massive psychiatric medications.

I am copying this letter to Senators Biden and Carper and Representative Castle to take the appropriate Congressional actions to effect my requests.

Sincerely,

James W. Prescott, Ph.D.
Director

Cc Senator Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
 Senator Thomas R. Carper
 Representative Michael Castle

Enclosures

James W. Prescott, Ph.D.

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23 October 2007

Representative Michael Castle
United States House of Representatives
1233 Longworth House Office Bld.
Washington, DC 20515

Re: National Institutes of Health

Dear Representative Castle,

Please find enclosed a copy of my letter of 23 October 2007 to Dr. Zerhouni, Director, NIH, with attachments, that details a history of false statements, denials and suppression of the truth to the Congress by officials of the National Institutes of Health concerning my wrongful termination of a 17 year federal career in science administration in 1980; that has resulted in the wrongful termination of agency responsibility to support research in child abuse and neglect and developmental origins of violence by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) that was not resumed until the mid 1990s; the continuing refusal of NIH officials to correct the unlawful actions of Dr. Norman Kretchmer, then Director, NICHD who exceeded his legal authority to abolish the NICHD mission to support "research and training in the special health problems and requirements of mothers and children" (Public Law 87-838, Sec 441); the failure to acknowledge and support research that documents impaired brain development and behavior in children consequent to impaired and failed bonding in the maternal-infant/child relationship; and the failure to initiate health programs that are known to prevent the devastating consequences of maternal-infant/child separation--the increasing violence against mothers and children; the increasing sexual exploitation of women and children; the increasing and unacceptable suicides of children and youth over the past quarter century; and the massive psychiatric medications of children and youth to correct disorders that are highly preventable and which were unheard of a generation or so ago.

I am requesting that you, Senators Biden and Carper review the enclosed documents and hold Congressional hearings on this history of the NIH and its failure to act to prevent the health crises of America. Congressional remedial actions are necessary to correct the increasing depression and violence that now afflicts America, as the NIH has failed in its mission. Most of the depression and violence among our children and youth are preventable.

In a New York Times report, Representative Chris Cannon of Utah pressed Mr. Fielding on whether he "understood that a lie would be prosecutable", even if the interview was not conducted under oath." He said, 'Yes, we understand that,' Mr. Cannon said. "Lying to Congress can be a crime even if the false statements are not made under oath" (attachment, Stolberg, NYT 3.21.07, "Bush Clashes with

Congress"). The many statements made by NIH officials to the Congress concerning its research history and programs on child abuse and neglect-- over the years-- have been false and are crimes.

I am "petition(ing) the government for a redress of grievances", under my First Amendment rights, to correct a grave injustice to myself and family; and to the mothers, children and families of America who have suffered needlessly through the torrents of depression and violence that has been made possible by the abuse, betrayal and neglect by the National Institutes of Health.

As we face a new administration in the forthcoming elections, it is necessary in my view, to re-organize the health science bureaus of this nation where a Department of Science needs to be created with an Undersecretary for the Physical Sciences and an Undersecretary for the Life Sciences. Health, in its broadest sense, goes beyond the limitations of the biomedical-pharmaceutical enterprises and the straitjacket of the genomic sciences that is strangling health research and policy in this country.

No living organism-- from microbe to man--can grow to become a healthy organism by living in a toxic environment. America and the world has been so contaminated by corporate-industrial enterprises that a healthy environment to raise children is almost impossible to find.

The pristine environments of pre-industrial tribal cultures have documented that high maternal-infant/child affectional bonding (baby-carrying during the first year of life) can predict 80% of the peaceful and violent homicidal nature of 49 cultures studied. The exceptions could be accounted for by whether youth sexual affection was permitted or punished. 77% (20/26) of cultures where weaning age was 2.5 years or longer were found to have low or absent suicides; and 82% (14/17) of these cultures that permitted youth sexual expression were rated low or absent in suicide. Can child and youth suicides today be traced to the lack of breastfeeding bonding and youth affectional sexual expression? --issues that the NIH refuses to address!

Additional documentation is posted at <http://www.violence.de>.

Your attention to this petition is appreciated.

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Senator Thomas R. Carper
United States Senate
513 Hart Senate Office Bld.
Washington, DC 20510

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United States Senate
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