



DEC 11 2009

Assistant Secretary for
Preparedness & Response
Washington, D.C. 20201

Patricia Quinlisk, M.D., M.P.H.
Chair, National Biodefense Science Board
State Epidemiologist and Medical Director
Iowa Department of Public Health
321 East 12th Street
Lucas State Office Building
Des Moines, IA 50319-0075

Dear Dr. Quinlisk:

Since my confirmation on July 17, 2009, I have come to recognize the National Biodefense Science Board (NBSB) to be a resource to the Department. The Board has played a vital role in providing expert advice with actionable recommendations in FY2009, and I would like to reassure that the expertise of the Board is being utilized to the fullest extent and in the most efficient manner.

As we move forward, I would like to request that the Board form a Working Group to explore the following:

- NBSB priorities for the future;
- An analysis of the current NBSB Working Groups - including membership and the expertise that each member provides;
- Whether the tasks and responsibilities of each Working Group remains appropriate; and what, if any new tasks should be undertaken;
- Interaction of Disaster Mental Health Subcommittee with NBSB.

I look forward to the work that we will accomplish together. Once again I thank you for your diligence in ensuring the public health of our nation.

Sincerely,

/s/ Nicole Lurie, MD

Nicole Lurie, MD, MSPH
Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response