



Health Services
LOS ANGELES COUNTY

January 3, 2007

Los Angeles County
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TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Bruce A. Chernof, M.D.
Director and Chief Medical Officer 

SUBJECT: **FUNDING STATUS OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTES
OF HEALTH (NIH) CLINICAL TRIALS PROGRAM**

This is to provide you with an update with regard to the funding status of the NIH clinical trials program grant to the University of Southern California (USC) for AIDS Clinical Trials Group (ACTG) services at the LAC+USC Rand Schrader Clinic.

I am pleased to report that on December 18, 2006, the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) agreed to continue funding USC's ACTG Program and follow all patients currently enrolled through 2008.

Following your Board's motion of December 5, 2006, the Department of Health Services, along with Department of Public Health's Office of AIDS Programs and Policy (OAPP), the County's Legislative Advocates, County Counsel, the Chief Administrative Office, and the County's Congressional representatives, worked together to urge NIAID to reconsider the decision to de-fund ACTG services provided at LAC+USC Rand Schrader Clinic. Among the actions taken were:

- County Legislative Advocates educated Congressional representatives about the local impact of the loss of funding for USC and the Rand Schrader Clinic, and secured letters to NIH and NIAID from Senator Boxer and Representatives Waxman and Roybal-Allard.
- County Counsel explored legal options in case of closure of the site to ensure continued patient care and safety.
- OAPP began the process of examining recent reductions in the federal HIV/AIDS funding portfolio to the County of Los Angeles.

While NIAID has not reversed the decision to de-fund USC for services provided at the LAC+USC Rand Schrader Clinic, a commitment has been made to supplement the current grant through 2008. In addition, NIAID has indicated that USC may be re-funded under the ACTG in the near future.

BAC:ws

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