



National Institutes of Health  
National Institute of Allergy  
and Infectious Diseases  
Bethesda, Maryland 20892

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Dear Dr. Nachman,

Thank you for your letter of June 29, 2010, to Dr. Anthony S. Fauci, Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), regarding his April 28, 2010, testimony before the House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health. As the Principal Deputy Director of NIAID, I am pleased to respond.

We appreciate your providing a summary of the evidence related to the questions raised at the April 28 hearing. NIAID does find that the overall weight of the evidence to date links antibiotic use in food animals with antibiotic resistance in humans. A witness from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reinforced this point at a subsequent hearing of the House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health on July 14.

Thank you for your interest in the April 28 hearing and your efforts to understand antibiotic resistance as it relates to food animal production. We will keep you and your colleagues in mind as potential technical resources on this important issue. The emergence and increasing prevalence of antibiotic-resistant bacterial strains has become a global public health issue. Success against antimicrobial resistance will require a multifaceted approach that includes increased surveillance, more judicious use of antimicrobial drugs, and increased research on the biology of the microbes, mechanisms of resistance, host responses, vaccines, diagnostics, and therapeutics.

A similar response has been sent to Dr. Robert Lawrence.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "H. Auchincloss", with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Hugh Auchincloss, M.D.  
Principal Deputy Director  
National Institute of Allergy  
and Infectious Diseases