



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

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

May 28, 2008

Mr. Ken Boorum
Director, Blastocystis Research Foundation
5060 SW Philomath Blvd., #202
Corvallis, OR 97333-1044

Dear Mr. Boorum:

Thank you for your letter of May 12, 2008, to Dr. Anthony S. Fauci, Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), a component of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), concerning funding for the development of diagnostics and treatments for *Blastocystis hominis* infection. Thank you also for your note transmitting a copy of the letter to Dr. Elias Zerhouni, Director of the NIH. As the Principal Deputy Director of NIAID, I am pleased to respond to your letter.

NIAID is committed to funding innovative basic research, as well as the development and clinical testing of vaccines, diagnostics, and therapeutics for a wide variety of infectious and immunologic diseases, including diseases caused by parasites and protozoans. Because many questions remain regarding the ability of *B. hominis* to cause disease, more basic research needs to be done before the research that you suggest would be feasible. Although NIAID currently is not funding research directly related to *B. hominis*, should a researcher submit a grant application to NIH regarding *B. hominis*, it would be reviewed, like all grant applications, through the NIH peer review process, which is designed to evaluate and rate the scientific and technical merit of research applications for possible consideration for funding. More detailed information on the NIH peer review process can be found at the following Web site: <http://grants1.nih.gov/grants/peer/peer.htm>.

Thank you for your interest in NIAID research on *B. hominis*, and for your leadership and advocacy on behalf of other patients. I hope that this information is helpful to you. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "H. Auchincloss", is written over a thin horizontal line.

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