



April 13, 2023

Mr. Jeffrey Stein
Litigation Counsel
PETA Foundation
JeffreyS@PETAF.org

Dear Mr. Stein,

I am in receipt of your letter to Dr. Lawrence Tabak, who is Performing the Duties of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Director, regarding Dr. Alka Chandna's exclusion from the NIH main campus in Bethesda, Maryland, on February 7, 2023. I am responding on Dr. Tabak's behalf.

Dr. Chandna had been invited to give remarks that day on behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) as part of a public comment session at the National Advisory Mental Health Council (NAMHC) meeting at the NIH Bethesda campus.

I apologize for the miscommunication between the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) and the NIH police. We did include Dr. Chandna's written comments in the record of the meeting, but at the same time we understand that Dr. Chandna was looking forward to the opportunity to offer remarks in person. At this time, Dr. Chandna is not banned from entering the NIH Bethesda campus.

NIH has visitor access procedures that limit visits to the campus to only those persons having a legitimate purpose or sanctioned business reason, and a policy for restricting and/or removing individuals from NIH campus and facilities (see [NIH Manual Chapter 2300-752-3](#)). The policy states, "Following security screenings, individuals are permitted to enter onto NIH grounds to work, visit patients, consult medical staff, attend seminars, and engage in a variety of other activities in support of the agency's mission." During the security screenings, visitors are asked the reason for their visit, the location they intend to visit, and, if applicable, who they are visiting.

Sincerely,

Michael S. Lauer, M.D.
NIH Deputy Director for Extramural Research
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