

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

Dr. Michael Twery, PhD  
Director  
National Center on Sleep Disorders Research  
NHLBI, NIH  
6701 Rockledge Drive  
Bethesda, MD 20892

Dear, Dr. Twery:

Thank you for your leadership as Director of the National Center on Sleep Disorders Research (NCSDR) and your efforts in advancing sleep and circadian research across the National Institutes of Health (NIH). We write today to request an update on the current size, scope, and direction of the narcolepsy research portfolio within NCSDR.

We applaud NIH's steadfast dedication to sleep and circadian research and recognize the recent scientific breakthroughs within the field— particularly the awarding of the 2017 Nobel Prize in Medicine to NIH grantees for their work in circadian rhythm research. Certainly, the recent annual investments in NIH are supporting innovative sleep and circadian research in a meaningful way.

We understand that sleep disorder and deficiency research is touched upon by a broad swath of medical disciplines, given the influence sleep has on nearly every aspect of human biology and related medical conditions. Yet we are concerned by the fact that sleep disorders, as a particular area of research, have historically been underfunded and that activities within this focus previously emphasized basic science in lieu of clinical and translational research activities.

Although NIH has seen a recent increase in investment in sleep research, it is unclear the amount of time and resources that have been specifically dedicated to sleep disorders, both common and rare, with particular attention to narcolepsy. As you know, narcolepsy is a sleep disorder involving irregular patterns in Rapid Eye Movement (REM) Sleep and significant disruptions of the normal sleep/wake cycle. Though we recognize the importance of the multidisciplinary approach to sleep research taken by NIH as a whole, we explicitly request insight into how current resources are impacting the scope of the narcolepsy portfolio within NCSDR.

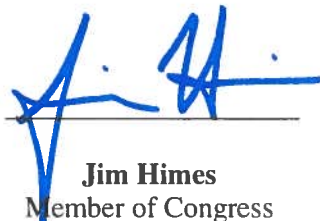
Given NCSDR's role in coordinating sleep research across the various NIH Divisions and Centers, we request your feedback on the current state of the narcolepsy research portfolio. Moreover, please inform us of how the allocation of additional resources and the overall investment in sleep research are impacting the size and scope of narcolepsy-specific activities. Lastly, we would appreciate an update on the direction and strategic vision for the narcolepsy portfolio, addressing the full spectrum of medical research being undertaken.

We look forward to hearing from you soon regarding this important matter. Moving forward, we hope to further support NIH and NCSDR, including sleep, circadian, and narcolepsy research activities.

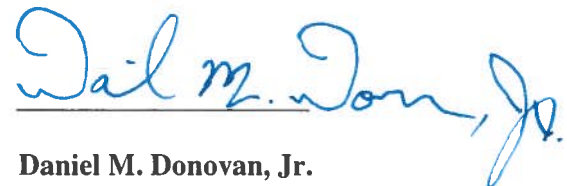
Sincerely,



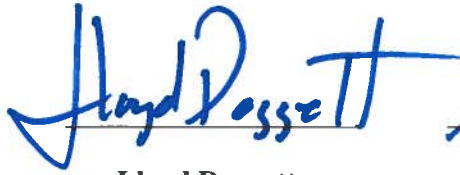
**Adam B. Schiff**  
Member of Congress



**Jim Himes**  
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**Daniel M. Donovan, Jr.**  
Member of Congress



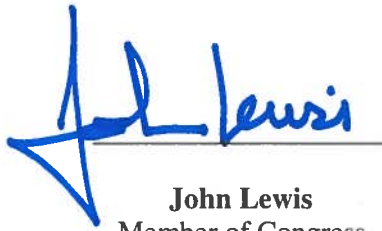
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**Rosa L. DeLauro**  
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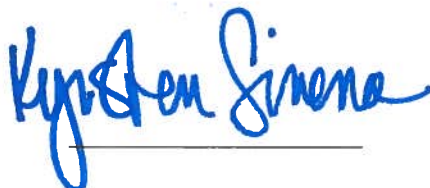
**Henry C. "Hank" Johnson**  
Member of Congress



**Terri Sewell**  
Member of Congress



**Lisa Blunt Rochester**  
Member of Congress



**Kyrsten Sinema**  
Member of Congress



**Daniel W. Lipinski**  
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