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ONE HUNDRED EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

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April 30, 2024

The Honorable Monica M. Bertagnolli, M.D.
Director
National Institutes of Health
9000 Rockville Pike
Bethesda, MD 20892

Dr. Bertagnolli,

Pursuant to Rules X and XI of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Committee is examining the adequacy of the National Institutes of Health's (NIH) compliance with a White House guidance to federal agencies to not fund research projects with researchers and entities in Russia. On June 11, 2022, the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) issued guidance stating such projects and programs that commenced and/or were funded prior to Russia's further invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 may be concluded, but new projects in affected subject areas will not be initiated. The OSTP advised applicable departments and agencies to curtail interaction with the leadership of Russian government-affiliated universities and research institutions, as well as those who have publicly expressed support for the invasion of Ukraine.¹

We note that in a statement in an April 9, 2023, article in *The Washington Times*, the NIH's Office of Extramural Research claimed that the "NIH currently does not fund any research in Russia."² However, the Data Abyss tracker for the OSTP Russia guidance on federal funding

¹ The White House, Guidance on Scientific and Technological Cooperation with the Russian Federation for U.S. Government and U.S. Government Affiliated Organizations (June 11, 2022),

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/ostp/news-updates/2022/06/11/guidance-on-scientific-and-technological-cooperation-with-the-russian-federation-for-u-s-government-and-u-s-government-affiliated-organizations/>

²Stephen Dinan, NIH cuts off funding for Russian lab work, animal experiments after Biden order, *Washington Times* (April 9, 2023), [https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2023/apr/9/nih-cuts-funding-russian-lab-work-animal-](https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2023/apr/9/nih-cuts-funding-russian-lab-work-animal-experimen/#:~:text=%E2%80%99CNiH%20currently%20does%20not%20fund,Russia%20over%20the%20past%20decade)

[experimen/#:~:text=%E2%80%99CNiH%20currently%20does%20not%20fund,Russia%20over%20the%20past%20decade](https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2023/apr/9/nih-cuts-funding-russian-lab-work-animal-experimen/#:~:text=%E2%80%99CNiH%20currently%20does%20not%20fund,Russia%20over%20the%20past%20decade)

agencies indicates that, as of April 5, 2024, the NIH has potentially 240 instances of problematic research collaborations since June 2022 that do not comply with the guidance.³

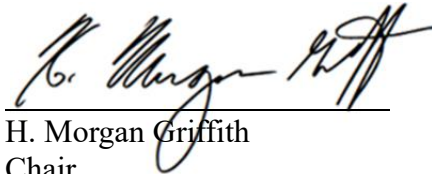
To assist this examination, please review the 240 potentially problematic instances identified by the Data Abyss Tracker, determine which ones have problematic research collaborations, and detail the corrective actions taken. We also request that the NIH describe any other efforts it has made to comply with the OSTP guidance. Please report back to the Committee by May 14, 2024.

If you have any questions, please contact Alan Slobodin of the Majority Committee staff at (202) 225-3641.

Sincerely,



Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Chair
Committee on Energy and
Commerce



H. Morgan Griffith
Chair
Subcommittee on Oversight and
Investigations



Brett Guthrie
Chair
Subcommittee on Health

CC: Frank Pallone Jr., Ranking Member, Energy and Commerce Committee
Anna Eshoo, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Health
Kathy Castor, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations

³Data Abyss, US Funded Russian Research Tracker (last accessed April 5, 2024), <https://www.dataabyss.ai/platform-resources/us-fed-funded-russian-research-tracker>.