January 16, 2022

Megan Piper, PhD
President, Society for Research on Nicotine and Tobacco
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Re: Your letters to the National Institutes of Health (NIH)

Dear Dr. Piper:

We are in receipt of your letters to Dr. Ned Sharpless (Director, National Cancer Institute), Dr. Nora Volkow (Director, National Institute on Drug Abuse), Dr. Gary Gibbons (Director, National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute), Dr. Eliseo Perez-Stable (Director, National Institute on Minority Health and Disparities), and Dr. Helen Meissner (Director, Tobacco Regulatory Science Program, National Institutes of Health Office of Disease Prevention). We understand your concerns about the challenges faced by researchers in tobacco and nicotine science.

The NIH has instituted flexibilities to assist researchers as they deal with COVID-19 related stresses. As we described in a recent blog as well as on our dedicated web site, there are flexibilities related to application development, peer review, late applications, submission of preliminary data, no-cost extensions, funded extensions, administrative supplements, eligibility extensions, reporting deadline extensions, and cost-related flexibilities. A number of these flexibilities should be handled on a case-by-case basis with the funding Institute or Center.

We encourage you to share this information with your community.

Sincerely yours,

-s- Michael S Lauer, MD

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