



February 6th, 2023

Dear Colleagues,

It has been my great privilege and pleasure to have served more than 12 years as ITN Network Director, and I am writing to let you all know that I am stepping down from that role. Mark Anderson, MD, PhD of UCSF will now serve as the ITN Director, and together with Network co-Director Bill St Clair, will lead the ITN going forward. As I ease into retirement, I plan to continue in an advisory capacity through 2023, supporting the ITN mission and participating in assessment group and steering committee activities. We have planned for a smooth transition and do not anticipate any disruption to network programs or staffing.

Mark is well-known to the ITN, serving in recent years an ITN NSC member and head of our mechanistic studies leadership team working with BDR scientists. At UCSF, Mark is the Robert Friend and Michelle M. Friend Endowed Chair in Diabetes Research, Director of the Diabetes Center, a practicing Diabetologist and a leading expert in the understanding of autoimmune diseases and their underpinnings. His major scientific contributions include unraveling the mechanisms by which a key transcription factor called Aire promotes immune tolerance and development of translational approaches that involve manipulating this key tolerance mechanism. As he assumes his new ITN leadership role, the Office of the Network Director will now be based at UCSF, and the ITN group at the BRI will now be called the ITN Coordinating Center. The ITN departments and personnel at BRI will be unchanged and continue to serve in their same role within the ITN, and the NIAID UM1 grant that supports the ITN will continue with BRI as the prime award recipient, issuing subawards to UCSF and other institutions for ITN activities, the same funding structure that has served us well for the last 10 years.

To help clarify the relationship of the ITN Coordinating Center at BRI to the Network Directors Office at UCSF, I am pleased to announce some well-deserved new job titles for our terrific administrative leadership team at BRI: Mary Roy's new title is ITN Chief Administrative Officer, Alison Bemis has been promoted to Director - ITN Finance and Grants, and Jared Hennessy has been promoted to Director- ITN Data Collaboration Team (DCT).

Mary will work closely with Mark Anderson supporting his new role, and she will continue to assure coordination of ITN administration with BRI leadership and NIAID. She has served in this capacity with the ITN for 10 years, building a track record of excellence in performance and accountability for our organization. Alison has been with the ITN for nine years and serves as the ITN's direct contact to NIAID Grants Management and is responsible for all grant reporting to NIAID. She manages the ITN Subaward Team and oversees ~300 funding actions annually, an amazing level of activity that enables our operations. Jared has been with the ITN for over six years, leading a geographically dispersed DCT team that has made considerable enhancements to the management of ITN data needed to maintain scientific rigor, data security, data dissemination, and research integrity. Jared has worked strategically with cross network stakeholders, partners, and subcontractors to develop and manage data reporting tools and ensuring appropriate dissemination of scientific data to the research community, consistent with the ITN commitment to the NIH Data Management Policy.

I am proud of the many accomplishments of the ITN and the contributions our talented teams have made to scientific advancements in immune tolerance. I want to thank each of you for the opportunity to work with you towards meeting our goals, and I look forward to learning of many additional accomplishments in the years to come.

Jerry