

UCS Nominates 61 Experts to Serve on FDA Advisory Committees

FDA advisory committees provide science-based recommendations to the FDA on the safety and efficacy of a wide-range of products, including pharmaceutical drugs, vaccines and biological supplies, tobacco products, medical devices, and food safety. Despite their important task, financial conflicts of interest have compromised the ability of these committees to make independent and objective recommendations.

Some argue, however, that the FDA should allow more experts with conflicts of interest to serve on advisory committees, claiming that it is too difficult to find independent experts with the necessary expertise.

On June 18, 2012, the Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS) formally nominated 61 conflict-free scientists and medical doctors to serve on 19 FDA advisory committees. All of the nominees have confirmed that they are not aware of any financial conflict of interest that would that would impair or appear to impair their scientific objectivity or create an unfair competitive advantage for any person or organization.

The 61 nominees, if accepted, would fill more than half of currently vacant advisory committee positions. The FDA does not need to rely on experts with financial ties to industry. Finding qualified and objective experts is well within the agency's reach.

The nominees are:

Ms. Onyeka Anaedozie
Resources for Human Development Inc.

Dr. Michael Andre
University of California at San Diego School of
Medicine

Dr. Lauri Andress
Texas Southern University

Dr. Linda Banish
Self employed

Dr. Michael Barris
Retired

Dr. William Beckett
Mount Auburn Hospital

Dr. Michael Bennett
Albert Einstein College of Medicine of Yeshiva
University

Dr. Todd Brusko
University of Florida College of Medicine

Dr. Pat Bucy
University of Alabama School of Medicine

Dr. Wayne Butler
Schiffler Cancer Center, Wheeling Hospital

Dr. Virginia Carroll
Stratford University

Dr. RJ Cavanagh
San Joaquin County Behavioral Health

Dr. Haivan Chen
University of Maryland School of Medicine

Dr. Derek Clevidence
Meriter Medical Group

Dr. Nihar Desai
Harvard Medical School

Dr. Robert Eilers
New Jersey Division of Mental Health and
Addiction Services

Dr. John Ely
Alamogordo Primate Facility

Dr. Marcus Eubanks
Heritage Valley Health System

Dr. David Evans
University of Washington School of Medicine

Dr. Cathy Falvo
American College of Preventive Medicine

Dr. Renee Fox
University of Maryland School of Medicine

Dr. Phillip Garfin
Stanford School of Medicine

Dr. Rebecca Gluskin
New York City Department of Health and
Mental Hygiene

Dr. Audra Gollenberg
Shenandoah University

Dr. Nayvin Gordon
Indian Health Service

Dr. Tee Guidotti
Medical Advisory Services

Dr. Laurence Guttmacher
University of Rochester Medical Center

Dr. Robert Heimer
Yale University School of Medicine

Dr. Therese Heinonen
Montreal Heart Institute

Dr. Tom Heinz
Hoag Hospital

Dr. Clark Hinderleider
Physicians Nutraceuticals

Dr. Jiafen Hu
Pennsylvania State University College of
Medicine

Dr. Pieter Kark
Ethical and Independent Review Services, LLC

Dr. Tripti Kataria
University of Chicago

Dr. Ronald Kavanagh
TPW Consulting

Dr. Annu Khajuria
Marshfield Clinic

Dr. Judith Klotz
Drexel University School of Public Health

Dr. Grace Lasker
Lake Washington Institute of Technology

Dr. Megan Latshaw
Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public
Health

Dr. Yulan Liang
University of Maryland

Dr. Richard Maddock
University of California at Davis School of
Medicine

Ms. Jennifer Mall
Environmental Protection Agency

Dr. Paul Manganiello
Dartmouth Medical School

Dr. Joel Merenstein
University of Pittsburgh Medical Center

Dr. Mary Moore
Vanderbilt University School of Medicine

Dr. Ian Paul
University of Mississippi Medical Center

Dr. Stacey Plichta
CUNY School of Public Health at Hunter College

Dr. Lisa Plymate
Providence ElderPlace

Dr. Dennis Pocekay
University of California at Davis

Dr. Cheryl Rust
Howard University

Dr. Jacqueline Sagen
University of Miami School of Medicine

Dr. Jack Salmon
University of Illinois at Chicago School of Public
Health

Dr. Tricia Smith
Virginia Commonwealth University

Dr. John Snyder
Tufts University School of Medicine

Dr. Mark Spohr
Medical Informatics, Inc.

Dr. John Stamler
University of Iowa College of Medicine

Dr. Doug Stutz
Stutz, Schuh & Associates, Inc.

Dr. Elizabeth Sugg
United States Peace Corps

Dr. Leon Vinci
H Promotion Consultants

Dr. Gordon Walbroehl
Wright State University

Dr. Martin Weinhaus
Hofstra University