

Milton Hospital

DCN: 8406

BRAC Commission

August 23, 2005

AUG 26 2005

Received

The Honorable Anthony J. Principi, Chairman
Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC)
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Chairman Principi,

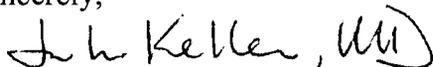
I am writing to urge the BRAC to remove the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology (AFIP) from the list of military facilities slated for closure. As both a pathologist in community hospital practice and an officer in the Army Reserve Medical Corps, I have had the opportunity see the quality of the work and the contribution to society that the professional and ancillary staff of the AFIP make on all our behalf. As a recent communication to the membership of the American Society of Clinical Pathology correctly notes, . . .

“The AFIP is an irreplaceable resource for disease research and patient care. This exceptional institution not only provides outstanding service to our nation’s military community, but also contributes significant knowledge and education to the broader medical field’s understanding of human disease”.

The AFIP tissue repository is a valuable national treasure that must remain accessible to researchers and experts in laboratory medicine. Each year the AFIP issues hundreds of thousands of hours in continuing medical education to a diverse group of medical professionals, myself included. Its leadership in the area of education and training advances the knowledge base and ensures the competence of thousands of military and civilian medical professionals. Also, if the AFIP’s consultative services are discontinued, patient care at numerous institutions will be compromised.

Should the AFIP be forced to close, our nation would lose a valuable resource that plays a key role in the advancement of medicine and contributes knowledge to improve the health of our nation’s citizens. First, I respectfully request that the BRAC eliminate its recommendation to dismantle the AFIP. While the military may ultimately consolidate some of the functions of the Walter Reed Army Medical Center at other facilities in the greater Washington, D.C. area, the AFIP should be maintained, either on the current WRAMC campus or at a new location. Second, I urge the BRAC to ensure that the integrity of the tissue repository is preserved. Thank you for your kind consideration.

Sincerely,



Jon L. Keller, M.D., M.P.H.

August 12, 2005

The Honorable Anthony J. Principi
Chairman
Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC)
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Chairman Principi:

I am writing to urge the BRAC to remove the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology (AFIP) from the list of military facilities slated for closure. The AFIP is an irreplaceable resource for disease research and patient care. This exceptional institution not only provides outstanding service to our nation's military community, but also contributes significant knowledge and education to the broader medical field's understanding of human disease.

The AFIP tissue repository is a valuable national treasure that must remain accessible to researchers and experts in laboratory medicine. The AFIP's collection of specimens has helped medical professionals understand, develop vaccines and treatments for, and sometimes cure, often-fatal diseases. Access to both archived material as well as newly acquired specimens must be preserved.

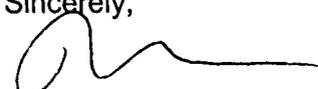
Each year the AFIP issues hundreds of thousands of hours in continuing medical education to a diverse group of medical professionals that specialize in pathology, forensics, radiology, emerging infectious disease, renal disease, ophthalmology, and urology. In fact, over 7,400 medical and other health professionals alone were educated and trained in 2004 through a variety of AFIP-sponsored venues including live courses, seminars and Internet courses.

The AFIP's leadership in the area of education and training advances the knowledge base and ensures the competence of thousands of medical professionals. It would be a major loss to both military and civilian medicine, especially at this time, if AFIP's consultative services were discontinued.

Should the AFIP be forced to close, our nation would lose a valuable resource that plays a key role in the advancement of medicine and contributes knowledge to improve the health of our nation's citizens. First, I respectfully request, that the BRAC eliminate its recommendation to dismantle the AFIP. Second, I urge the BRAC to ensure that the integrity of the tissue repository is preserved.

Thank you for your kind consideration.

Sincerely,



Thomas H. Rosenquist, Ph.D.
Vice Chancellor for Research

AUG 26 2005



427 Guy Park Avenue, Amsterdam, New York 12010
518-842-1900 • www.smha.org

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Chairman
Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC)
2521 South Clark St., Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Chairman Principi,

I am writing to urge the BRAC to remove the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology (AFIP) from the list of military facilities slated for closure. The AFIP is an irreplaceable resource for disease research and patient care. In our practice, my partner and I utilize the AFIP for numerous consultations throughout the year. They provide expertise in all aspects of surgical pathology at a very reasonable rate. This exceptional institution not only provides outstanding service to our nation's military community, but also contributes significant knowledge and education to the broader medical field's understanding of human disease. The AFIP tissue repository is a valuable national treasure that must remain accessible to researchers and experts in laboratory medicine. The AFIP's collection of specimens has helped medical professionals understand, develop vaccines and treatments for, and sometime cure, often-fatal diseases. Access to both archived material as well as newly acquired specimens must be preserved.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles F. Schwartz, D.O.", written in a cursive style.

Charles F. Schwartz, D.O.
Director of Laboratory

BRAC Commission

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