

# B.O.S.C

BOARD OF SCIENTIFIC COUNSELORS

Chair

James H. Johnson, Jr., Ph.D.  
*Howard University*

Vice Chair

Rogene F. Henderson, Ph.D.  
*Lovelace Respiratory Research  
Institute*

James R. Clark, Ph.D.  
*Exxon Mobil*

Michael T. Clegg, Ph.D.  
*University of California*

George P. Daston, Ph.D.  
*Proctor & Gamble*

Kenneth L. Demerjian, Ph.D.  
*State University of New York*

Clifford S. Duke, Ph.D.  
*Ecological Society of America*

John P. Giesy, Ph.D.  
*Michigan State University*

Anna K. Harding, Ph.D.  
*Oregon State University*

Martin Philbert, Ph.D.  
*University of Michigan*

P. Barry Ryan, Ph.D.  
*Emory University*

Gary S. Sayler, Ph.D.  
*Univ. of Tennessee*

Carol H. Weiss, Ph.D.  
*Harvard University*

Herbert L. Windom, Ph.D.  
*Skidaway Institute of Oceanography*

October 12, 2006

Dr. George Gray  
Assistant Administrator  
Office of Research and Development  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Dr. Gray:

In June 2005, the Board of Scientific Counselors (BOSC) agreed to review the Science To Achieve Results (STAR) Graduate Fellowship and the Greater Research Opportunities (GRO) Graduate Environmental Study and GRO Undergraduate Fellowship for Environmental Studies Programs. An eight member Subcommittee was formulated and composed of representatives from academia, industry, and government. The Subcommittee members had expertise in the natural, physical, ecological, and health sciences in undergraduate and graduate education programs; economics; education at minority serving institutions; administration of federal and nonfederal fellowship programs; and administration of nonprofit environmental organization programs. The Subcommittee was assisted by a consultant and Dr. Clifford Duke of The Ecological Society of America, a BOSC Executive Committee member, served as the Chair of the Subcommittee.

The overall objectives of the review were to: (1) determine if the stated program outcomes are being obtained, and (2) provide direction and recommendations for future program operations, policies, and enhancements. The Subcommittee was charged with evaluating the STAR/GRO Fellowship Programs by responding to seven charge questions, three of which addressed the outcomes of the programs.

The review was conducted from January through May 2006. The Subcommittee members met three times via conference call for orientation to the Federal Advisory Committee Act requirements, to discuss the review procedures, and to receive overview presentations on the programs by EPA. A face-to-face meeting was conducted at the Doubletree Hotel in Washington, DC, March 2-3, 2006. The meeting featured presentations by program leaders and fellowship recipients as well as Subcommittee working sessions. Subsequent to the Washington meeting, a conference call was held on April 3, 2006, to review and complete the draft report.

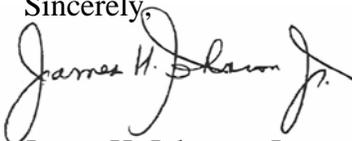
Overall, the Subcommittee found that the fellows funded by the STAR and GRO Programs have made excellent contributions in environmental science and engineering, and a number of them continue to be employed in the environmental field in academia, consulting, and in EPA and other agencies. Although other federal agencies fund a number of fellowship programs, none are dedicated exclusively to the environmental sciences and engineering. Therefore, the EPA programs clearly are of value to the Agency and the nation in helping to educate the next generation of environmental scientists and engineers. The attached report makes several recommendations regarding documenting the outcomes of the programs and reorganizing them to have a more significant impact of their capacity building components.

The results of the review are anticipated to assist EPA's Office of Research and Development (ORD) in program enhancement, comparative analysis with other similar programs, intermediate mid-term investment decisions, Government Performance Results Act (GPRA) reporting and response to the Program Assessment Rating Tool (PART) process.

It is my pleasure to transmit this report to you on behalf of the BOSC Executive Committee and the STAR/GRO Subcommittee. The advice provided in the report will assist ORD in improving the effectiveness of the programs and assist clients inside and outside EPA in understanding the programs' objectives. Finally, we hope the advice also will assist in providing greater exposure of the programs and the STAR/GRO fellows.

Please feel free to contact me if there are questions regarding the report, and we look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James H. Johnson, Jr.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

James H. Johnson, Jr.  
Chair