

National Headquarters
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www.astho.org
@ASTHO

October 31, 2018

Sarah Wiley, MPH
Designated Federal Officer, OID CDC
1600 Clifton Road NE
Mailstop D10
Atlanta, GA 30329

Dear Ms. Wiley,

It is with great pleasure that the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) submits this letter in support of the nomination of Karen Smith, MD, MPH, to the CDC Board of Scientific Counselors of the Office of Infectious Diseases. Dr. Smith's experience as a State Health Official and her expertise in adult infectious disease and internal medicine will be an invaluable asset to the BSC OID.

ASTHO is a national non-profit organization representing the state and territorial public health agencies of the United States, the U.S. Territories, and the District of Columbia. ASTHO's members, the chief health officials of these jurisdictions, are dedicated to formulating and influencing sound public health policy, and to assuring excellence in state-based public health practice.

Dr. Smith's professional career has provided her with a wealth of experience in public health that is applicable to the BSC OID's work in providing expert consultation and recommendations to the Secretary of HHS, CDC Director, and other CDC Center Directors. Dr. Smith was appointed to her current position as the Director and State Public Health Officer of the California Department of Public Health in 2015. In this capacity, Dr. Smith has direct responsibility for all aspects of public health programming in the state of California, including immunization, epidemiology, and emergency preparedness. Dr. Smith has a wide and varied career and experience in public health previously serving as medical staff in infectious disease at the Queen of the Valley Medical Center, the deputy Health Officer and TB Control Officer for Santa Clara County Public Health Department, and as the Director of the Clinical Laboratory in Wichienburi District Hospital in Petchaboon Province Thailand as a Peace Corps Volunteer.

Dr. Smith has been active in a number of boards and committees nationally. She served a 3 year term on the Advisory Committee at the Harvard University School of Public Health Preparedness and Emergency Response Research Center, several years on the CDC BSC-OPHPR as a liaison member, and as a member of the technical core committee to develop the National Health Security Strategy for RAND Corporation for the HHS and most recently has become the Vice-Chair of ASTHO's Infectious Disease Policy Committee.

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Dr. Smith's perspective as a State Health Official will help inform her, and the Committee's deliberations and understanding of the implications of the programs and activities undertaken by the CDC OID centers. Because the programs overseen by the CDC OID are a primary responsibility of state public health agencies, it is critical for the BSC OID to have the benefit of the perspective of State Health Officials. Dr. Smith's current experience as a State Health Official and her wide and varied public health experience will allow her to provide a unique perspective to the Committee. Thank you for giving full consideration to her nomination.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "MRF", is placed on a light gray rectangular background.

Michael R. Fraser, PhD MS CAE FCPP
Chief Executive Officer