



July 16, 2026

Jared Goodman
General Counsel & Chief Operating Officer
White Coat Waste
PO Box 26029
Washington, DC 20001
jared@whitecoatwaste.org

Dear Jared Goodman:

I am responding to your Information Quality Request for Correction of Information (“the RfC”) dated January 29, 2026, pursuant to Section 515(a) of the Treasury and General Government Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2001¹ (the Information Quality Act or IQA) and the guidelines issued by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB Guidelines),² the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS Guidelines),³ and the National Institutes of Health (NIH Guidelines).⁴

In your request, you ask that NIH correct comments made by Dr. Nicole Kleinstreuer, then Acting Deputy Director for Program Coordination, Planning, and Strategic Initiatives, on the NIH Director’s podcast from July 10, 2025, regarding NIH research on dogs and cats.

Upon thorough review of the complaint and references cited, the agency has determined that a correction is not warranted. As per the NIH Guidelines, opinions where the agency’s presentation makes it clear that what is being offered is personal opinion rather than fact or the agency’s views are **not** covered by the OMB Guidelines. At timestamp 21:01, Dr. Kleinstreuer and Dr. Bhattacharya explicitly confirm that she is offering her personal opinion in response to a question about policies on dog and cat research.⁵ Thus, Dr. Kleinstreuer’s comments are not

¹ P.L. 106-554, 44 U.S.C. 3516 note.

² *Guidelines for Ensuring and Maximizing the Quality, Objectivity, Utility and Integrity of Information Disseminated by Federal Agencies*, 67 Fed. Reg. 8452 (February 22, 2002), available at: <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2002/02/22/R2-59/guidelines-for-ensuring-and-maximizing-the-quality-objectivity-utility-and-integrity-of-information>.

³ *HHS Guidelines for Ensuring and Maximizing the Quality, Objectivity, Utility, and Integrity of Information Disseminated to the Public*, available at: <https://aspe.hhs.gov/infoquality/Guidelines/part1.shtml>.

⁴ *HHS Guidelines for Ensuring and Maximizing the Quality, Objectivity, Utility, and Integrity of Information Disseminated to the Public*, Part II.I (National Institutes of Health), available at: <http://aspe.hhs.gov/infoquality/Guidelines/NIHinfo2.shtml>.

⁵ *Director’s Desk: The Future of Animal Models in Research | NIH’s Dr. Nicole Kleinstreuer*, NIH YouTube (July 10, 2025), available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iSvk6iMx7Yg>.

subject to RfC. For the reasons stated above, we respectfully decline your Request for Correction and decline to take the actions you requested.

Thank you for your interest in the quality of information disseminated by the National Institutes of Health. If NIH denies a request for correction, the complainant may send a written request for reconsideration within 30 days of receipt of the agency's decision. The request should state the reasons for the appeal and requestors should reference the NIH tracking number provided in the NIH response to the original request. Requests may be sent as e-mail to OEPR_InfoQuality@mail.nih.gov or as hard copy to the following address:

Director, Office of Evaluation, Performance, and Reporting
Division of Program Coordination, Planning, and Strategic Initiatives
Office of the Director
National Institutes of Health
Building 1, Room 260
1 Center Drive
Bethesda, MD 20892

If sent by hard copy, requestors should clearly mark the outside envelope, "Information Quality Appeal."

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "M. Memoli", is positioned above the printed name and title.

Matthew J. Memoli, M.D., M.S.
Principal Deputy Director
National Institutes of Health
9000 Rockville Pike
Bethesda, MD 20892