



Dear Partner

This is the first of what I hope will be many contacts with you, as I assume the position of Director of the National Center for Environmental Health (NCEH) and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). I will join CDC in early September, but I want to take this opportunity to introduce myself and greet you now.

I come to CDC from Emory University, where I have been Professor and Chair of the Department of Environmental and Occupational Health in the Rollins School of Public Health and Professor of Medicine in the School of Medicine. My background includes training and work as an internist, occupational and environmental medicine specialist, and epidemiologist.

As Director of NCEH/ATSDR, I will bring a range of interests and commitments. First and foremost, I am passionate about creating and protecting environments that are safe and healthy for all Americans. In particular, we need to focus on groups at special risk—children, the elderly, poor people and people of color who have been disproportionately exposed to hazards, and others. We need to continue CDC's tradition of sound science, as exemplified by the recently released *Third National Report on Human Exposure to Environmental Chemicals*, and we need to make environmental health data available and useful to partners, policymakers, and the public, through such efforts as environmental health tracking. We need to strengthen and reinforce the environmental health capabilities of state and local health departments, and at the same time we need to act globally, advancing environmental health around the world. We need to focus on traditional sanitarian issues, and we need to look over the horizon, anticipating and preparing for emerging environmental health challenges, from nanotechnology to climate change.

These and other tasks require broad thinking and deliberate action. In our thinking, we need to link environmental health with other fields—genomics and proteomics, ecology and industrial engineering, transportation and urban planning, energy and housing. In our actions, we need to form and sustain key partnerships, leveraging our strengths and seeking strategic synergies. Like you, I have been an external partner of NCEH and ATSDR, and I understand first-hand the importance of good customer service. Internally, we need to optimize the collaboration of NCEH and ATSDR.

In coming months I will be reviewing each of the NCEH/ATSDR partnerships and activities, and I hope to be in contact with you. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact me with any concerns, questions, or suggestions. I thank you for your partnership, and I very much look forward to working with you to advance our shared goal of safe, healthy environments.

Sincerely,

Howard Frumkin, M.D., Dr.P.H.  
Director, National Center for Environmental  
Health/Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease  
Registry