



December 22, 2010

Dear Colleague,

Over the past few months, we have been through a comprehensive process to select a permanent director for the Division of Sexually Transmitted Disease Prevention (DSTDP) within the National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention (NCHHSTP), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). We were pleased to have received exceptional candidates from which to make the selection. Today, I am proud to announce that Dr. Gail Bolan has been selected for the position of DSTDP Director.

Dr. Bolan began her public health career in 1982 as an EIS officer in the Respiratory and Special Pathogens Branch at CDC. She gained international experience with a three month meningitis surveillance project in Burkina Faso, Africa. Following EIS, she completed an infectious disease fellowship that included bench research on the characterization of a *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* iron-regulating protein that was thought to be a potential vaccine antigen candidate.

In 1987, she began a life-time career in the field of STD prevention and control as Director of the STD Prevention and Control Program at the San Francisco Department of Public Health jointly with an academic appointment in the Department of Medicine at University of California San Francisco Medical School. Since 1997, she has served as the Chief of the STD Control Branch at the California Department of Public Health as well as the Director of the California STD/HIV Prevention Training Center. In these positions, she has consistently demonstrated a strong and enthusiastic commitment to the field of STD prevention.

Earlier this year, Dr. Bolan received the CDC Jack Spencer Award, which honors an individual for a career of exceptional contributions to excellence in STD prevention characterized by outstanding commitment to science-based programs, continuous innovation, and profound commitment to helping people.

Throughout her career, Dr. Bolan has held numerous scientific leadership positions on many national committees related to STD prevention and control and has been a senior technical consultant with the CDC on a wide variety of strategic scientific initiatives. She has published more than 125 articles of which many appear in high profile journals such as *Nature*, *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, *Lancet*, *New England Journal of Medicine*, and *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

Dr. Bolan earned her medical degree from the Dartmouth Medical School in Hanover, New Hampshire. She completed her training in internal medicine at the University of Virginia, Charlottesville, and subspecialty training in infectious diseases at the Tufts New England Medical Center in Boston and the Stanford Medical Center.

During this thorough selection process, Drs. Cathleen Walsh and Charlotte Kent sequentially served as the acting DSTDP Director. I would like to personally thank Drs. Walsh and Kent for their outstanding leadership and service over the last nine months.

Thank you all for your continued support and contributions to STD prevention. Please join me in thanking Drs. Walsh and Kent and welcoming Dr. Bolan.

Sincerely,

/Kevin A. Fenton/

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