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Dr. Marc Ouellette  
Scientific Director  
Institute of Infection and Immunity  
Canadian Institutes of Health Research

Dear Marc,

I must resign from the Institute Advisory Board for the Institute of Infection and Immunity. As you know, CIHR commissioned a Task Force on Ethics Reform in 2012 to evaluate its organizational structure as it pertains to ethics. The Task Force issued its final report a year ago, in the spring of 2013. Since then, CIHR has failed to implement any of the Task Force's major recommendations. If anything, CIHR has systematically undermined the role of its own ethics office, and has isolated the ethics designates serving on Institute Advisory Boards.

The Task Force offered a strong and invigorated role for ethics within CIHR's organization, but CIHR management has instead chosen to go in the opposite direction. I don't feel that the ethics designate role is given sufficient support by CIHR, and for this reason I can no longer continue as an ethics designate or advisory board member. The person now in charge of ethics at CIHR, Dr. Jane Aubin, has no background in ethics as an academic or clinical pursuit. I find this insulting. At the recent Canadian Bioethics Society meeting, Dr. Aubin indicated that CIHR will not backtrack on its decision to ignore the Task Force's recommendations.

I have always enjoyed getting to know the members of the Institute of Infection and Immunity staff and IAB. They are a great bunch of people who are easy to get along with – yourself included of course. My resignation from the board is not a reflection of my experience there, but rather a result of my dissatisfaction with decisions made by upper-level management and committees in response to the Task Force report.

Yours sincerely,  
Chris Kaposy.