

**Opening Remarks**  
*Reed V. Tuckson, M.D.*

---

DR. TUCKSON: Good morning. How is everybody today?

Those of you who did not make it to dinner last night, oh, what a time you missed. We flew airplanes. We played World War One. We went to France. We got lost. We followed Sarah. Sarah blocked the highway. People blew their horns. We hid under the front seat. You don't ever want to miss another one of those.

We had a long and very productive day yesterday. It was, I think, a very, very good discussion in a number of areas. We've got some really important work to do. Not only did we have great pharmacogenomics stuff, but the oversight issues were, I thought, pretty intense actually for a while there. I think we came out with a plan that was a pretty good consensus. The amazing thing was your ability to be thoughtful that late in the day after having gone through all of that. It just was amazing.

Well, let's get right to it.

By the way, if you haven't ordered your lunch, you've got to do it by 10 o'clock. So what you need to do is to go out there and find Abbe and Abbe will take care of you, but if you don't do it by 10:00, you don't eat and there you go.

Everybody has got to fill out their FACA survey, which I always forget, but it's like technical, and return it to Abbe. You will find it in your briefing book. So make sure you've crossed your T's and dotted your I's on all your ethics stuff.

We also recognize that there are several of you that are going to be leaving at the 3 o'clock break or so to get back to the West Coast and even further west. So we're going to really rock and roll through our session. I don't think we have any real vote stuff near the end of the day, so I think we're going to be all right. The agenda was thoughtfully designed by Sarah and team for that reality.

Today's first session will focus on the report to the Secretary on the policy issues associated with the undertaking of a large population cohort project on genes, environment, and disease in the United States.

At the time of our meeting in June, the draft report had been released for a 60-day public comment period. The Large Population Studies Task Force carefully considered the comments and revised the draft report to incorporate this feedback. The final draft is in table 7 of your briefing books.

Let me also point out that the IOM has kindly provided each of us with a copy of the report, "Genes, Behavior, and the Social Environment," which focuses on the importance of including behavioral factors and the social environment in studies of gene/environment interaction. So our work is clearly a centerpiece with a lot that's going on.

Today we need to come to consensus. Today we need to come to consensus on the final draft report and whether it is ready to be submitted to the Secretary. So we really do want to get this thing in front of the Secretary. We've allotted a full five hours for this important work, and I am so happy that I will turn this over to Hunt who will lead us through five hours of a discussion of

SACGHS Meeting Transcript  
November 13-14, 2006

changes that have been made to the draft report in light of the substantive public comments received and the recommendations that the task force would like the full committee to adopt as part of this report. So he's really going to take us -- and Hunt and I have been through this ourselves in pre-meetings. So we're pretty clear about how this is going to go. It's very structured conversation, very specific. It's timed out to get us from here to there in time to finish. So you guys just keep knowing that as you make your comments, which we want you to do, keep trying to find a way to listen to your colleague and get to consensus around stuff that people may disagree on, and then we can just keep on moving right through and get it done.

With that, Hunt Willard.