



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

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April 4, 2019

Dear Governor DeSantis,

Let me congratulate you on your selection of Dr. Scott Rivkees as the new Surgeon General for the State of Florida. I have worked closely with Dr. Rivkees over the past six years as he has served as a member of the Board of Scientists Counselors for NICHD. Serving as chairman for the past three years. Dr. Rivkees is a true physician scientist and a great leader. He is a strong advocate for health care in general.

Dr. Rivkees has been trained as a pediatric endocrinologist. He excelled early as a trainee and a junior faculty member. His reputation as a smart, highly productive, and innovative physician scientist, educator, and mentor only grew with the years. Dr. Rivkees, then, naturally assumed leadership positions in academic organizations, medical centers, and professional societies, a testimony to his skills but also to his wider recognition as a friendly, humble, and effective leader by his peers. Dr. Rivkees excelled everywhere and his leadership is widely acclaimed by all that he worked with.

On a more personal note, Dr. Rivkees beyond being humble, hardworking, and academic, is – to put it quite simply – one of the nicest people I know: he has tremendous integrity, he is absolutely committed to mentoring, very supportive of his staff and trainees, loyal to his friends and the institutions he worked for, and dedicated to doing good at all times.

In other words, you could not have chosen a better person to be the new Surgeon General for the State of Florida; Dr. Rivkees is uniquely suited for this position, and you are lucky to have him!

I am available for any questions at the address and numbers provided on the letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Stratakis", is written over a large, loopy oval scribble.

Constantine A. Stratakis, M.D., D(med)Sci

Senior Investigator, NICHD, NIH
Head, Section on Endocrinology and Genetics, NICHD, NIH
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