

On September 26, 2016, the U.S. House of Representative's Committee on Oversight and Government Reform requested information regarding U.S. National Institute of Health's financial support of the International Agency for Cancer Research (see letter here: <https://oversight.house.gov/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/2016-09-26-JEC-to-Collins-NIH-IARC-Funding-due-10-10.pdf>). In this letter, the Chairman of this committee notes that IARC's approach to for classifying substances as carcinogenic "appear inconsistent with other scientific research" and "have generated much controversy and alarm". The letter then states that IARC "avoids having to meet the strict scientific standards and government scrutiny afforded to science advisory committees in America," yet is still perceived to be an authoritative body for identifying cancer-causing chemicals whose decisions impact American policy.

Shortly after this public letter was sent to Dr Francis Collin, the President of ISEE responded to these statements. (See ISEE's letter here: [link to PDF](#)). In this letter, Dr Manolis Kogevinas, on behalf of ISEE, supports the process by which IARC approaches their scientific review of evidence regarding the carcinogenic potential of substances. Furthermore, the letter expresses ISEE's strong support for IARC as a leading authority in cancer risk assessment and explains that some of the apparent controversy surrounding IARC's determinations comes from changes in expert opinion as a result of new evidence, as well as, misunderstanding of IARC's hazard determination. The letter closes with a reminder that IARC serves an important role in the risk assessment process by providing an independent hazard assessment of substances and does not make policy recommendations.