

**Presentation of Certificates**  
*Reed V. Tuckson, M.D.*

---

DR. TUCKSON: We are going to pause for just a moment. Thank you all for your indulgence. We are extremely pleased that three of our members who have rotated off the Committee took the time and the energy to change their schedules to be with us today. One of them has to go off to a meeting that we promised to get her out for, and others will be here for various parts of the day.

We are extremely excited to honor three of our most outstanding members in the history of this Committee. You talk about some hard-working three folk. It really is painful for me because I came in with them and, golly, I just feel so sad that they are not going to be around.

Anyway, let me start with Cindy Berry. Cindy is an attorney at Powell Goldstein, where she is chair of the government relations practice, and a member of the firm's health care practice. Previously, she was general counsel and managing director at Wexler & Walker, Public Policy Associates.

Prior to joining Wexler & Walker, she served as Washington counsel to the AMA and practiced law with Trabue, Sturdivant & DeWitt in Nashville, Tennessee. She also served as legislative assistant to then Representative John Kyle.

Ms. Berry practiced law with a bunch of people before moving to Washington.

[Laughter.]

DR. TUCKSON: See, every firm she has been with has like 18 different people so it just will mess it up completely if you try.

Anyway, her issues are specializing in healthcare law, medical malpractice defense, and commercial litigation.

In addition, she served as vice chair of the Virginia Birth-Related Neurological Injury Compensation Program and was a member of the Secretary's Advisory Committee on Genetic Testing. She received a law degree from Vanderbilt University School of Law and is admitted to practice before the United States Supreme Court.

Cindy, could you join me, please?

The remarks from the Secretary on your certificate are that "You were appointed to SACGHS for your expertise in law and public policy. As a member of our predecessor committee, the Secretary's Advisory Committee on Genetic Testing, you provided important continuity between the two groups. During your tenure with us, you spearheaded the development of the Coverage and Reimbursement Report and made significant contributions to the Committee's extensive work on genetic discrimination, gene patents, and licensing and oversight.

"We thank you for your service, and we are pleased that this certificate of appreciation is being offered to you on behalf of Secretary Leavitt for your public service and commitment to addressing issues raised by the development and the use of genetic technologies."

I will say personally, Cindy, you talk about hard-working but also reliable, trustworthy counsel. She is a safety blanket intellectually, and I want to tell you thank you very much.

[Presentation of certificate.]

[Applause.]

DR. TUCKSON: Cindy, thank you so much.

I'm really happy now to ask Chira to start to come forward. Chira Chen is representative of the San Francisco Advocacy Corps, a volunteer group that shares the patient's perspective with breast cancer researchers at the University of California. She is a survivor of lymphoma and breast cancer. Her father and mother died from cancer.

MS. CHEN: No, no, not mother.

DR. TUCKSON: I'm always the one who pays for this.

[Laughter.]

DR. TUCKSON: She is a member of the Planning Committee for National Survivors Day in the San Francisco Bay area and does extraordinary volunteer work with cancer patients and their families.

She has served as a reviewer for breast cancer research grant applications for the Department of Defense, providing the most important patient perspective. Professionally, Ms. Chen is a staff research associate at UCSF Comprehensive Cancer Center.

The remarks on her certificate: "Chira Chen was appointed to SACGHS in 2005 for her expertise in consumer advocacy and to bring consumer perspectives to the Committee's deliberations. During her tenure, she provided important insights and contributed significantly to several taskforce efforts, including the Large Population Studies Initiative and Gene Patents and Licensing.

"Ms. Chen, on behalf of Secretary Leavitt and in recognition of your public service and commitment to addressing issues raised by the development and use of genetic technologies, I am pleased on his behalf to present this certificate of appreciation."

I will say personally, again, that it has always been just a joy to have you around the table and knowing that when that patient and consumer perspective needed to be there your voice of conscience was always important. But also, so was your smile and your attitude. You always enlivened and brightened all of our deliberations.

So, thank you for your example and your role-modeling.

[Presentation of certificate.]

[Applause.]

DR. TUCKSON: Finally, for our friend Hunt, who we very rarely call Huntington. They have given me nothing of the official wording. I wanted to read what the Secretary's was going to have.

SACGHS Meeting Transcript  
November 20, 2007

I'm going to say what I'm going to say, but I have to read what the certificate says, and they have to hand me the certificate.

DR. BILLINGS: Just cry, Reed.

[Laughter.]

DR. TUCKSON: "Dr. Hunt Willard," it says on your certificate, sir. "You were appointed in 2003 for your expertise in human genetics and genomics. Over the past four years," and I know they went like that, "you provided important leadership as chair of our Large Population Studies Taskforce and you guided the development of the Committee's comprehensive report on the policy issues associated with these types of studies.

"You also served on the Pharmacogenomics Taskforce and contributed insights and knowledge on the many other issues addressed by our Committee.

"Dr. Willard, on behalf of Secretary Leavitt, we are pleased to give you this certificate, with our gratitude, for your public service and commitment to addressing issues raised by the development and use of genetic technologies."

I will say that Hunt has been very often a right arm me, trying very hard to keep me in line and to keep making sure that we were informed by the absolute best scientific thinking on these issues. You have been a rock solid rock star, Huntington. Thank you so much.

[Presentation of certificate.]

[Applause.]

DR. TUCKSON: Just to let our three leaving people know, the five new people coming in got a real treat yesterday of how hard this Committee is and how hard we work. I do hope that you can sense that the bonds that are formed by doing this kind of work are pretty intense. So it is just great that we stopped the whole train for a minute to really say thank you to the three of you.

You are welcome to stay and be a part of the deliberations as long as you want. I do hope you recognize that no good deed goes unpunished and that there will be the very long arm of the Committee reaching out and grabbing you for some taskforce or another, i.e., you cannot get away from us.

Once again, everyone, please.

[Applause.]

DR. TUCKSON: To our guests, thank you for your indulgence in allowing us to change the schedule. I appreciate your flexibility.