



May 26, 2005

The Honorable Ralph Regula  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services,  
Education and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

**Association of  
American Medical Colleges**  
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**Jordan J. Cohen, M.D.**  
President

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Attached is a statement by the Association of American Medical Colleges in support of the National Institutes of Health's PubChem database. The AAMC strongly supports the continuation of this database as a critical component of the NIH Roadmap's Molecular Libraries Initiative to assure the availability and integration of output from the small molecules screening centers with that from other publicly available data sources. Based on the Human Genome Project experience, databases are only as useful as they are comprehensive, incorporating and tying together as much previously disparate information as possible. In the absence of such a comprehensive database, the promise of the Molecular Libraries Initiative will not be realized, and the scientific community, and the public who are counting on NIH for medical breakthroughs, will not be well served. We urge the Congress to continue support for this vital resource.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jordan J. Cohen".

Jordan J. Cohen, M.D.

Attachment

cc: Elias Zerhouni, M.D.  
Francis Collins, M.D.



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## **AAMC Supports NIH Molecular Libraries and PubChem Database**

**Washington, D.C., May 26, 2005-** *Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) President Jordan J. Cohen, M.D., issued the following statement in support of the National Institutes of Health's PubChem database, a part of the "NIH Roadmap for Medical Research":*

“In my statement of September 30, 2003 applauding NIH Director Elias Zerhouni’s Roadmap initiative, I noted that ‘perhaps the most exciting component of the [Roadmap] plan are those proposals promoting the development of new research tools, ranging from libraries of chemical structures, small bioactive molecules, and imaging probes, all of which are to be made ‘freely accessible’ to the research community...’

“NIH is now moving apace to construct these ‘molecular libraries’ and related resources that will provide biomedical researchers with new tools to study the functions of genes, biochemical pathways, and cells.

“‘PubChem’ is the database component of the molecular libraries initiative, integrating output from the small molecule screening centers with other publicly available data sources, such as NIH’s protein structure resources and the biomedical citation literature in PubMed central. Like other facets of the Roadmap, the molecular libraries and PubChem were conceived after extensive consultation with hundreds of experts from the scientific community.

“NIH assures that these resources are not intended to duplicate or supplant established, commercially available resources. Rather, they are designed to leverage capabilities unique to NIH to develop resources that academic investigators or institutions would not be able acquire on their own, and are similar in many respects to GenBank and PubMed Central, both of which provide public access without onerous financial, reach-through, or other restrictions.

“Based on the great potential of these resources to advance medical understanding and strengthen the public’s health, the AAMC reaffirms its strong support for NIH’s Molecular Libraries initiative, including the PubChem database.”