



Asthma and Allergy  
Foundation of America

# press release

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## ASTHMA & ALLERGY FOUNDATION CEO APPOINTED TO NIH COUNCIL

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**(January 12, 2009 — Bethesda, MD)** The Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America (AAFA) announces that its President and CEO, William M. McLin, has been appointed to the Council of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease (NIAID), an institute of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), for a four-year term. The Council is a chartered advisory committee that provides a diverse perspective on science, health and the human impact of diseases.

The Council serves as NIAID's main advisory body on key functions, including: performing peer review, advising on policy, reviewing programs, and developing and clearing concepts for program announcements, requests for applications and requests for proposals. NIAID often seeks the Council's advice before changing policies for training, health information dissemination, administration, budget and other areas.

McLin has been head of AAFA since 2001 at a time when asthma and allergic diseases in the U.S. have experienced alarming growth – prevalence has nearly doubled over the past 25 years. McLin helped the 55-year-old not-for-profit patient group transition into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century to better educate patients and caregivers, as well as advocate and conduct research for the asthma and allergy community.

McLin will serve on the advisory subcommittee of the Division of Allergy, Immunology, and Transplantation through October 31, 2012. During program reviews, the subcommittee advises on a program's effectiveness in meeting Institute goals and the needs of the allergy and immunology community.

Before coming to AAFA, McLin served as Director of Government Relations and Executive Vice President during his 20-year tenure with the Epilepsy Foundation of America. He also provided interim executive oversight services to numerous nonprofit organizations. Mr. McLin has held key positions with the National Health Council, the American Society of Association Executives, the President's Committee for Employment of People with Disabilities and the Public Advisory Roundtable of the American Thoracic Society.

NIAID conducts and supports basic and applied research to better understand, treat and prevent infectious, immunologic and allergic diseases. For more than 50 years, NIAID

research has led to new therapies, vaccines, diagnostic tests and other technologies that have improved the health of millions of people around the world. Visit [www.niaid.nih.gov](http://www.niaid.nih.gov).

AAFA is the leading national not-for-profit patient advocacy organization for people with asthma and allergies. It is dedicated to improving the quality of life for people with asthma and allergies through education, advocacy and research. For more information, visit [www.aafa.org](http://www.aafa.org).