

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515

June 9, 2016

Francis Collins, M.D., Ph.D.  
Director  
National Institutes of Health  
9000 Rockville Pike  
Bethesda, MD 20892

Walter J. Koroshetz, M.D.  
National Institute of Neurological  
Disorders and Stroke  
6001 Executive Boulevard  
Bethesda, MD 20892

Dear Drs. Collins and Koroshetz,

I am writing to express my interest in current and planned efforts by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), including the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS), regarding essential tremor (ET). Essential tremor is a progressive neurological condition that causes tremor with actions and sustained postures. This directly impacts writing, typing, computer mouse use, phone use, or basic tasks like eating, drinking, and dressing. Action based tremor can be particularly disabling for many careers: artist, dentist, surgeon, anything requiring fine use of hands. Even though ET is a common cause of disability, its causes are unknown and treatment options are limited.

There are currently few treatments for ET, comprised of medications designed for other conditions that were serendipitously noted to reduce tremor, and invasive surgical interventions that do not cure the underlying disorder. Available medications have limited efficacy and frequent side effects. Understanding the natural history and causes of ET would accelerate development of effective treatments for the millions of Americans impacted by ET.

I would appreciate a description of the NIH's research and other activities on ET, including coordination among the Institutes and with other agencies, and plans for the future. Thank you for your attention. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Chris Van Hollen  
Member of Congress