



Colleagues:

It is with mixed emotion we announce that Dr. Charles Sharp has retired from the NIH effective October 31. Charlie, as he is known by many of us, moved from academia to government service decades ago and has since served in varying capacities at NIH most recently as a Program Official at NIDA. Charlie is a founding member of SNIP and was the first recipient of the Society's Wybran Award, given for "extraordinary contributions that help to integrate the fields of neuroimmunology, drugs of abuse, and immunity to infection". Charlie believed in, and was committed to, promoting this integration during his service with NIDA. More recently, Charlie was the recipient of the 2008 Herman Friedman Founders Award given for "visionary contributions in the establishment and continued development of the Society". We, and the field, are extremely grateful for his sage advice and tireless efforts on our behalf.

Being the take-charge guy that he is, Charlie wanted to say farewell to you in his own words. (see below)

We wish Charlie and his dear wife Betty continued health and happiness and look forward to seeing both at future society meetings.

Thomas W Klein
SNIP Secretary

Dear Colleagues:

I have retired officially as a Government employee. I have enjoyed serving the scientific community for many years. I have learned a lot and I especially appreciate the warm regards the Society has bestowed upon me. It has meant a lot. I've always approached my job and you in the field with aspirations of enhancing our knowledge and anticipating that it will benefit mankind as well as rewarding those who contribute. You haven't let me down. Sometimes success has eluded us, but not because of the lack of good ideas on your part. I've enjoyed the many opportunities to discuss your research as well as that of the field. It has been stimulating and kept me active. I will miss many of those opportunities as direct interactions will now be greatly diminished. Our interactions have been exceedingly comforting and mostly enjoyable, even when I'm not the bearer of good news. It is with reluctance that I terminate my official federal role with each of you as you pursue your scientific goals. That does not mean that I will not be able to interact with you. Although I will reduce my effort and thus my availability to anyone; I have been fortunate that Dr. Shurtleff and NIDA have enabled me to get an "Emeritus" type role in government (it is not stated that way, but is similar in many respects) with an office that retains my same phone number 301-435-0893 and email address you have been using cs107m@nih.gov

Best regards for the great future. My wife has reviewed and approves this message.

Charles Sharp, PhD