

May 15, 2026

Lucille Foster
Chair
Rutgers University Senate
Liberty Plaza, Suite 1250
New Brunswick, NJ 08901

Dear Chair Foster & Senators:

I am writing to inform the Rutgers University Senate of a series of reporting changes I have made for the directors of four of our research centers and institutes.

From the inception of Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences (RBHS) in 2013, a broad spectrum of the senior leadership of our Chancellor Lead Unit reported directly to the inaugural chancellor of RBHS. These direct reports included three senior vice chancellors, the deans of the eight schools, seven directors of research centers and institutes, and various other administrators. From a management perspective this table of organization, which evolved organically over the past thirteen years, is no longer an optimal or sustainable structure for RBHS.

In anticipation of the appointment of a new Chancellor of RBHS, to streamline the reporting relationships to the Chancellor, and enhance administrative efficiency and accountability, four centers and institute directors will be assigned new supervisors.

The following reporting changes will take effect on July 1, 2026:

- Dr. Gary Aston-Jones, Director of the Brain Health Institute (BHI) will report to Dean Amy Murtha of the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School (RWJMS)
- Dr. Martin Blaser, Director of the Center for Advanced Biotechnology and Medicine (CABM) will report to Dean Amy Murtha, RWJMS
- Dr. Cristine Delnevo, Director of the Institute for Nicotine and Tobacco Studies (INTS) will report to Dr. Steven Libutti, Director of the Rutgers Cancer Institute
- Dr. Helmut Zarbl, Director of the Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences Institute (EOHSI) will report to Dr. Joseph Barone, Dean of the Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy.

Please note that the faculty academic homes of the members of these centers and institutes will remain unchanged. Faculty will continue to report through their existing school-based structures. Nor do we anticipate any immediate changes to funds flow, administrative infrastructures, and grant submission processes and pre- and post-award oversight will also continue without change. These reporting relationship designations do not impact the status of the centers and institutes as “Chancellor-level” centers under the Rutgers Policy 10.1.5 Research Centers and Institutes.

I will update you with any further incremental refinements to the RBHS organizational structure as we continue to assess our current operations.

Thank you for your ongoing support of and commitment to Rutgers University.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Johnson', with a stylized, cursive script.

Robert L. Johnson, MD, FAAP