



**Association of
American Medical Colleges**
655 K Street, NW, Suite 100, Washington, DC 20001-2399
T 202 828 0460 E djskorton@aamc.org
aamc.org

David J. Skorton, MD
President and Chief Executive Officer

August 17, 2019

Francis Collins, MD, PhD
Director
National Institutes of Health
9000 Rockville Pike
Bethesda, Maryland 20892

Dear Francis,

On behalf of America's medical schools and teaching hospitals, and my colleagues at the AAMC, I congratulate you on a decade of extraordinary service and leadership as director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

Under your leadership, the NIH — in partnership with researchers at medical schools, teaching hospitals, and beyond — has advanced and disseminated biomedical research discoveries leading to more robust prevention, innovative diagnostic approaches, and transformative treatments such as cancer immunotherapy and gene therapies and progress on a universal flu vaccine, which have provided hope to millions of patients battling life-threatening and chronic conditions.

In addition, you have catalyzed several far-reaching efforts and programs that promise to dramatically advance medical science's ability to improve the health of all, including the Cancer Moonshot, the establishment of the National Center for Advancing Translational Science, the BRAIN Initiative, the HEAL Initiative, and the All of Us research program, which builds on work you led at the Human Genome Project.

We also applaud all that you have done to strengthen the biomedical research workforce by increasing support for early- and mid-career researchers and enhancing the diversity of our nation's scientists and talent pool. Your recent statement that you will decline any invitation to speak in which the agenda does not include attention to inclusiveness is a testament to the work you and the NIH have done to make the medical research community more representative of our broader society. Further, your efforts to combat harassment, both at the NIH and within the labs it funds across the country, contribute to a culture of respect for all.



Francis Collins, MD, PhD
August 17, 2019
Page 2

At a time when misinformation holds the potential to undermine the public's trust in science, your actions regarding conflicts of interest and ethics in science have ensured the integrity and validity of NIH-funded studies — and the security of those outcomes — and the research that went into them. This vital work guarantees that we are conducting sound research that can be built upon to benefit patients awaiting a cure and to prevent disease.

For decades to come, people worldwide will live longer and healthier lives due to your leadership. We thank you for your dedication to science and the discovery of knowledge, and congratulate you on both your illustrious career as a physician-scientist and on your anniversary as NIH director. We look forward to the groundbreaking work ahead and our continued partnership.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David".

David J. Skorton, MD
President and Chief Executive Officer