



December 13, 2021

Dr. Shannon Zenk, PhD, MPH, RN, FAAN  
Director  
National Institute of Nursing Research  
National Institutes of Health  
31 Center Drive, Room 5B03  
Bethesda, MD 20892

RE: Request for Information (RFI) on the NINR 2022-2026 Framework

Dear Director Zenk,

On behalf of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN), the national voice for academic nursing, thank you for the opportunity to submit feedback in response to the RFI on the NINR 2022-2026 Framework. AACN works to establish quality standards for nursing education, assists schools in implementing those standards, influences the nursing profession to improve health care, and promotes public support for professional nursing education, research, and practice. Today, AACN represents nearly 840 member schools of nursing, over 580,000 students, and over 52,000 faculty at public and private universities nationwide.<sup>1</sup>

We congratulate NINR on the achievement of outlining an innovative and deliberate new vision to lead the nursing research community through 2026. Earlier this year AACN, in collaboration with our Health Policy Advisory Committee, submitted initial recommendations in response to the NINR Framework prior to the release of the draft framework. Following the release AACN is encouraged to see health equity and social determinants of health highlighted in this vision, which aligns with AACN's shared values. Additionally, we continue to advocate for increased funding to support research on outcomes in relation to cost and value, as well as nursing interventions and informatics research.<sup>2</sup> Further we encourage the NINR to continue to strive for inclusiveness among nurse researchers, and other professionals engaging in nursing research, which would allow the institute to benefit from the knowledge, skills, and lived experiences of scientific researchers from diverse racial and ethnic groups, communities, and regions. This emphasis ties in closely with NINR's prioritization of health equity and the advancement of health research.

AACN further recommends and encourages NINR to take into consideration, and actively incorporate, nurse scientists who built their research portfolio and background on past NINR priorities into the future vision of nursing research. Past research, projects, and gained knowledge can play an integral role in the success of the reimagined mission and goals of NINR.

We appreciate your leadership to construct a guiding mission to lead the nursing research community as we continue to address pressing health issues facing our nation. We value the opportunity to collaborate with you and your colleagues in the administration to help meet your mission. If our organization can be of any assistance, please contact AACN's Director of Policy, Colleen Leners at [cleners@aacnnursing.org](mailto:cleners@aacnnursing.org).

Deborah Trautman, PhD, RN, FAAN  
President and Chief Executive Officer

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.aacnnursing.org/About-AACN>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.aacnnursing.org/Portals/42/Policy/AACN-Recommendations-NINR-Strategic-Plan-2022-2026.pdf>