

American Association
of Colleges of Nursing



November 20, 2023

Dr. Monica Bertagnolli
Director
National Institute of Health
9000 Rockville Pike
Bethesda, MD

Dear Director Bertagnolli,

On behalf of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN), we congratulate you on your confirmation as Director of the National Institute of Health and welcome the opportunity to work with you and your staff. We applaud your dedication to health care and research at the National Cancer Institute, which will no doubt serve you well as the head of NIH.

As the collective voice for academic nursing, AACN serves as the catalyst for excellence and innovation in nursing education, research, and practice. Today, AACN represents over 865 member schools of nursing with baccalaureate and higher degree programs, which enroll more than 530,000 students and employ more than 54,000 faculty at public and private universities nationwide¹. AACN's work is critical to meeting the nation's demand for healthcare professionals and elevating nurses to serve as a vital resource in the areas of research and practice.

Since the inception of professional nursing, nurses have led the way providing community-based, innovative, and cost-effective care. The National Institute of Nursing Research and other branches of the NIH have supported the profession by funding research addressing important topics, including mental health, vaccine hesitancy, chronic diseases, maternal health, and patient safety. We hope to continue this strong tradition of support by working with you to prepare the next generation of highly qualified nurses.

As you begin your work, please know that we are here to connect you with nursing leaders, researchers, and policy experts. If we can be of any assistance, please contact Dr. Brenda Baker, Director of Policy at bbaker@aacnnursing.org or Rachel Stevenson, Director of Government Affairs at rstenenson@aacnnursing.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Deborah E. Trautman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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

ADVANCING HIGHER EDUCATION IN NURSING