



April 14, 2025

Jayanta Bhattacharya, MD, PhD
The National Institutes of Health
9000 Rockville Pike
Bethesda, Maryland 20892

Dear Dr. Bhattacharya:

On behalf of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN), we congratulate you on your appointment as Director of the National Institutes of Health. We welcome the opportunity to work with you and your staff to continue to improve the health of all Americans through the delivery of high-quality, accessible health care.

AACN has a vested interest in supporting this work, as we represent more than 875 schools of nursing in the U.S. charged with preparing over 520,000 nursing students to enter the workforce in entry-level and advanced positions. Given the critical role nurses play in safeguarding the public's health and providing evidence-based care, we look forward to working with the National Institutes of Health to ensure that nurses are engaged in the national dialogue on improving health and health care.

As the collective voice for academic nursing, AACN serves as the catalyst for excellence and innovation in nursing education, research, and practice. We are dedicated to helping promote policies that sustain the healthcare workforce and support nurses in delivering quality, cost-effective, team-based care. We believe that nurses are essential to strengthening and protecting our nation's health.

AACN is committed to working with the Trump-Vance Administration to prepare a patient-centered nursing workforce. To continue to improve the health and well-being of Americans, we can connect you with nursing leaders, researchers, and policy experts who can offer critical insights as you take the helm as Director of the National Institutes of Health.

We welcome the opportunity to meet and discuss how we can assist in advancing your agenda. If we can be of any assistance, please contact AACN by reaching out to Dr. Josh Adams, Director of Policy at jadams@aacnnursing.org, or Rachel Minahan, Director of Government Affairs at rminahan@aacnnursing.org.

Sincerely,

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

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