

AACN's WASHINGTON WEEKLY

Your Inside Track to Federal Policy

August 15, 2018



Scientific American Features AACN's Role in All of Us Research Program

Dr. Colleen Leners, Director of Policy at AACN, is working with a team of AACN staff to recognize and elevate the importance of enrolling in the *All of Us* Research Program. The program, part of the Precision Medicine Initiative and spearheaded by the National Institutes of Health, seeks to gather lifestyle, environmental, and biological data from one million people in the U.S. to ultimately improve individualized health care. As the *Scientific American* article notes, the program's success depends on obtaining data representative of the diversity of the U.S. population, while overcoming previous barriers to collecting data from groups underrepresented in biomedical research. The *Scientific American* features Dr. Leners' expertise and event leadership across the country to introduce people to the program. [Read the full story.](#)



Honoring Healthcare Professionals During National Health Center Week

[National Health Center Week](#) (August 12-18) honors the over 220,000 health professionals working in the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)-funded health centers across the nation. According to [HRSA data](#), the U.S. has approximately 1,400 HRSA-funded health centers serving more than 27 million individuals. For more than 50 years, these health centers have been critical to providing high-quality, affordable, and patient-centered healthcare in their communities. In conjunction with this week's events, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services also announced \$125 million in grant awards to 1,352 community health centers. This funding will help support the health centers' efforts to improve quality care. [Read](#) the HRSA Administrator's blog entry, [view](#) the HRSA Health Center Program fact sheet, or [follow](#) this week's events on Twitter.



The U.S. GAO Reports on Workforce Diversity in NIH Research

The U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) released a report to Congressional Committees on the National Institutes of Health (NIH) research outlining actions needed to achieve workforce diversity. The report analyzes NIH data following the passage and implementation of the 21st Century Cures Act, which called for NIH to create and coordinate programs and initiatives to strengthen the diversity of the scientific workforce. Further, this Act instructed the GAO to examine NIH's support of biomedical investigators from underrepresented groups. This GAO report provides recommendations on developing methods to evaluate actions taken by NIH to diversify the workforce. Nursing's leaders recognize a strong connection between a culturally diverse nursing workforce and the ability to provide quality, culturally competent patient care. [Read the full report.](#)

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