



**AMERICAN
PSYCHOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION**

November 20, 2023

Monica Bertagnoli, MD
Director
National Institutes of Health
9000 Rockville Pike
Bethesda, Maryland 10892

Dear Dr. Bertagnoli:

On behalf of the American Psychological Association (APA) and as a proud Board Member of Research!America, I am writing to extend heartfelt congratulations on your appointment to be the director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). It is a well-deserved recognition of your outstanding achievements and leadership in biomedical research and health care.

APA is the nation's largest scientific and professional nonprofit organization representing the discipline and profession of psychology, as well as over 146,000 members and affiliates who are clinicians, researchers, educators, consultants, and students in psychological science.

You bring a wealth of expertise, vision, and passion to NIH. As NIH director, you will undoubtedly face unprecedented challenges and opportunities, particularly in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has highlighted the importance of science, particularly behavioral, social, and psychological science. The association has the utmost confidence that you will lead NIH with excellence, integrity, and innovation. We stand ready to assist you in your efforts and hope you consider our membership a resource as you confront the associated challenges of leading a premier organization like the NIH.

The association wholeheartedly shares your belief that "NIH can and must support research that is equitable and accessible to all populations." To that end, APA encourages you to rely on the NIH Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences (OBSSR) and its newly appointed director, Dr. Jane Simoni, to achieve your goals for the agency. OBSSR can assist with your aims to focus on the uptake of preventive behaviors (key to reducing mortality), improve the overall quality of patient care, expand clinical trials, diversify the NIH leadership and workforce, attend to the collection and use of data, particularly from underrepresented populations, and expand data sharing, among other areas.

APA looks forward to a culture of collaboration, transparency, and accountability within NIH and with its external partners and stakeholders. I am confident that under your leadership, the NIH will continue to make strides in advancing psychological science and mental health. If we can serve as a resource, please do not hesitate to contact Angela Sharpe, Senior Director, Congressional & Federal Relations (asharpe@apa.org), at any time.

With all best wishes,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Arthur C. Evans, Jr.', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Arthur C. Evans, Jr., PhD
Chief Executive Officer
American Psychological Association

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