



June 30, 2025

Courtney Ferrell Aklin, PhD  
Interim Director  
National Institute of Nursing Research  
National Institutes of Health  
31 Center Drive, Room 5B03  
Bethesda, MD 20892-2178

Dear Dr. Aklin,

On behalf of the Nursing Community Coalition (NCC), we would like to welcome you as the Interim Director of NIH's National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR). As a cross section of education, practice, research, and regulation within the nursing profession, the Nursing Community Coalition recognizes the critical contributions made by nurses, including Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs),<sup>1</sup> to deliver high-quality, lifesaving, preventive, and palliative health care across all care settings and geographic areas. Central to that work is innovative and impactful nursing research.

The NCC has a long tradition of working with NINR by promoting the work of nurse scientists, advocating for investments in research and future researchers, and sharing the Institute's foundational work to improve healthcare delivery across the care continuum. NINR's status as an independent entity ensures nurse researchers can continue their work developing and testing community-based models, particularly in rural and underserved areas, while increasing collaboration within NIH and championing translational research that supports health promotion and disease prevention. As you lead this crucial work, we look forward to working with you and your staff to advance and elevate nursing research and nurse scientists.

The unique partnership the NCC has created with our members allows our national organizations to unite on shared agendas and promote America's health through nursing care, research, and science. As you continue this important work, we would welcome the opportunity to meet with you directly and share our collective priorities. To set up this meeting and discuss shared goals, or if we can be of any additional assistance, please contact the Nursing Community Coalition's Executive Director, Rachel Minahan, at [rstevenson@thenursingcommunity.org](mailto:rstevenson@thenursingcommunity.org).

Sincerely,

Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses  
Academy of Neonatal Nursing  
Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments

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<sup>1</sup> APRNs include certified nurse-midwives (CNMs), certified registered nurse anesthetists (CRNAs), clinical nurse specialists (CNSs) and nurse practitioners (NPs).

American Academy of Ambulatory Care Nursing  
American Academy of Emergency Nurse Practitioners  
American Academy of Nursing  
American Association of Colleges of Nursing  
American Association of Critical-Care Nurses  
American Association of Heart Failure Nurses  
American Association of Neuroscience Nurses  
American Association of Nurse Anesthesiology  
American Association of Nurse Practitioners  
American Association of Occupational Health Nurses  
American Association of Post-Acute Care Nursing  
American College of Nurse-Midwives  
American Nephrology Nurses Association  
American Nurses Association  
American Nursing Informatics Association  
American Organization for Nursing Leadership  
American Pediatric Surgical Nurses Association, Inc.  
American Public Health Association, Public Health Nursing Section  
American Psychiatric Nurses Association  
American Society for Pain Management Nursing  
American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses  
Association for Radiologic and Imaging Nursing  
Association of Community Health Nursing Educators  
Association of Nurses in AIDS Care  
Association of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Nurses  
Association of periOperative Registered Nurses  
Association of Public Health Nurses  
Association of Rehabilitation Nurses  
Association of Veterans Affairs Nurse Anesthetists  
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses  
Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service  
Dermatology Nurses' Association  
Emergency Nurses Association  
Friends of the National Institute of Nursing Research  
Gerontological Advanced Practice Nurses Association  
Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association  
Infusion Nurses Society  
International Association of Forensic Nurses  
International Society of Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurses  
National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists  
National Association of Hispanic Nurses  
National Association of Neonatal Nurse Practitioners  
National Association of Neonatal Nurses  
National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health  
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners  
National Association of School Nurses  
National Black Nurses Association  
National Council of State Boards of Nursing

National Forum of State Nursing Workforce Centers  
National Hartford Center of Gerontological Nursing Excellence  
National League for Nursing  
National Nurse-Led Care Consortium  
National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties  
Nurses Organization of Veterans Affairs  
Oncology Nursing Society  
Organization for Associate Degree Nursing  
Pediatric Endocrinology Nursing Society  
Preventive Cardiovascular Nurses Association  
Society of Pediatric Nurses  
Society of Urologic Nurses and Associates  
Wound, Ostomy, and Continence Nurses Society

cc:

Dr. Jay Bhattacharya, Director of the National Institutes of Health