



September 9, 2026

Courtney F. Aklin, PhD
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 congratulate you and welcome you as the new 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),¹ to delivering high-quality, lifesaving, and preventive healthcare across all settings. Central to that work is innovative and impactful research.

The NCC has a long tradition of working with NINR by promoting the work of nurse scientists, advocating for investments in research, supporting current and future researchers, and sharing the Institute's foundational work to improve healthcare delivery across the care continuum. As a leader within NIH, and within NINR, you understand first-hand how nursing research informs evidence-based practice and policy. We look forward to working with you and your staff to advance and elevate nursing research and nurse scientists, especially as we work to address chronic disease prevention, patient care, and recovery.

The unique partnership the Nursing Community Coalition 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. We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you directly and share our collective priorities. In the meantime, and as you continue your work at NINR in this new role, please let us know if we can be of any assistance by contacting the Nursing Community Coalition's Executive Director, Rachel Minahan, at rstevenson@thenursingcommunity.org.

Sincerely,

Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses
Academy of Neonatal Nursing
Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments
American Academy of Ambulatory Care Nursing
American Academy of Emergency Nurse Practitioners

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

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 Psychiatric Nurses Association
American Public Health Association, Public Health Nursing Section
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
DNPs of Color
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 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
NurseTRUST
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:

Jay Bhattacharya, MD, PhD
Director
National Institutes of Health