December 15, 2016

President-elect Donald J. Trump  
Presidential Transition Headquarters  
1800 F Street, NW, Room G117  
Washington, D.C. 20270-0117

Dear President-elect Trump,

The undersigned, nonpartisan, patient and research nonprofit organizations, and companies, are writing to respectfully urge your favorable consideration of Dr. Francis Collins to continue serving as the Director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in your Administration.

We strongly endorse the sentiments expressed in support of Director Collins by House and Energy Commerce Committee Chairman Fred Upton; Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee Chairman Lamar Alexander; Senate Labor-HHS Appropriations Subcommittee Chairman Roy Blunt; and House Labor-HHS Subcommittee Chairman Tom Cole. As their December 2 letter to you states, Dr. Collins’ “distinguished scientific experience, effective leadership skills, and longstanding relationships with Members of Congress, researchers, and advocates will service the Nation and your Administration well.”

Under Dr. Collins’ direction, NIH research has not only improved public health, but it has also had high rates of social and economic return. For example, the United States government’s $3.8 billion initial investment in the Human Genome Project, that Dr. Collins led, has resulted in nearly $1 trillion in economic growth—a 178-fold return on investment—and more than 4.3 million job-years of total supported employment.

Dr. Collins himself recently expressed that it would be an honor to continue his service in your Administration. In an interview just last week, he stated that “If I were asked to stay on, I would consider it a privilege to do so.”

Medical research has long been treated as a nonpartisan priority. As Dr. Collins so eloquently said in a 2010 Newsweek interview, “I think history would say that medical research has, throughout many changes of parties, remained as one of the shining lights of bipartisan agreement, that people are concerned about health for themselves, for their families, for their constituents.”

We look forward to working with your Administration and Congress to ensure that the United States remains the beacon for medical innovation throughout the world.

Thank you for considering our views, and we wish you and your family health and happiness in the New Year.

Sincerely,

Alliance for Aging Research  
Alzheimer’s Foundation of America  
Alzheimer's Greater Los Angeles  
Alzheimer's Mississippi  
Alzheimer’s Tennessee  

American Association of Neuromuscular & Electrodiagnostic Medicine  
American Brain Coalition  
American Heart Association  
American Lung Association
American Medical Women's Association
American Society for Nutrition
American Society for Radiation Oncology
American Society of Clinical Psychopharmacology
American Thoracic Society
Argentum–Expanding Senior Living
Association for Clinical and Translational Science
Laura D. Baker, Ph.D. (Wake Forest University School of Medicine*)
Biogen
Cancer Support Community
Caregiver Action Network
CaringKind, the Heart of Alzheimer’s Caregiving
Clinical Research Forum
Coalition for Clinical and Translational Science
Suzanne Craft, Ph.D. (Wake Forest University School of Medicine*)
Cure Alliance for Mental Illness
Cure Alzheimer’s Fund
Cystic Fibrosis Foundation
Dementia Alliance International
Digestive Disease National Coalition
Dystonia Medical Research Foundation
Friends of Cancer Research
GBS|CIDP Foundation International
Laura N. Gitlin, Ph.D. (Johns Hopkins School of Medicine*)
Hadassah, The Women’s Zionist Organization of America, Inc.
Hepatitis Foundation International
HIV Medicine Association
Home Instead Senior Care
Huntington’s Disease Society of America
Indiana University
Infectious Disease Society of America
International Rett Syndrome Foundation
Interstitial Cystitis Association
Iona Senior Services
International Foundation for Functional Gastrointestinal Disorders
IU National Center of Excellence in Women's Health
Janssen Research & Development, LLC
Johns Hopkins School of Nursing, Center for Innovative Care in Aging
Walter A. Kukull, Ph.D. (School of Public Health, University of Washington*)
LatinosAgainstAlzheimer’s Network
March of Dimes
METAviron
Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation
National Alliance on Mental Illness
National Alopecia Areata Foundation
National Association of State Head Injury Administrators
National Certification Council for Activity Professionals
National Council for Behavioral Health
National Patient Advocate Foundation
National Stroke Association
National Task Group on Intellectual Disabilities and Dementia Practices
NephCure Kidney International
Neurotechnology Industry Organization
Northeastern University
OWL-The Voice of Women 40+
Pulmonary Hypertension Association
Stephen Salloway, M.D., M.S. (Alpert Medical School of Brown University*)
Scleroderma Foundation
Sleep Research Society
Reisa Sperling, M.D. (Department of Neurology, Harvard Medical School/Brigham and Women’s Hospital and MGH*)

StopAfib.org
Rudolph Tanzi, Ph.D. (Department of Neurology, MGH/Harvard Medical School*)
The Association for Frontotemporal Degeneration
The Gerontological Society of America
The Marfan Foundation
The Michael J. Fox Foundation
Geoffrey Tremont, Ph.D., ABPPCN (Alpert Medical School of Brown University*)
R. Scott Turner, M.D., Ph.D. (Department of Neurology, Georgetown University*)
Unite 2 Fight Paralysis
UsAgainstAlzheimer’s
U.S. Hereditary Angioedema Association
Wisconsin Alzheimer’s Institute

* Affiliations of individual researchers are for identification purposes only and do not necessarily represent the endorsement of affiliated institutions.

cc: The Honorable Fred Upton; The Honorable Frank Pallone
   The Honorable Lamar Alexander; The Honorable Patty Murray
   The Honorable Roy Blunt
   The Honorable Tom Cole; The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
   The Honorable Tom Price