



American Society for Nutrition
Excellence in Nutrition Research and Practice

October 19, 2021

Francis S. Collins, M.D., Ph.D.
Director, National Institutes of Health
9000 Rockville Pike, Bldg. 1
Bethesda, MD 20892

Dear Dr. Collins,

On behalf of the American Society for Nutrition (ASN), thank you for your tremendous leadership at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and your tireless efforts to advance biomedical research and with it, nutrition research, at the NIH and in the U.S. Established in 1928, ASN is the preeminent nutrition research and practice organization with more than 8,000 members working in academia, public health, clinical practice, industry and government; they enhance scientific knowledge and quality of life through excellence in nutrition research and practice. ASN, our members, and the entire nutrition research community are grateful for the leadership you have provided at the NIH for the past 12 years where you have increased support for the next generation of researchers, enhanced diversity of the biomedical workforce and improved equity at the NIH, and shepherded new initiatives that have improved and saved countless lives.

Under your direction, new initiatives to enhance and improve nutrition research at the NIH have taken shape, including the Strategic Plan for NIH Nutrition Research and the recent research initiative “Nutrition for Precision Health, powered by the *All of Us* Research Program” and related funding opportunities. This Strategic Plan and precision nutrition focus highlight the growing importance of nutrition, and that nutrition research is now considered a prominent area of scientific pursuit, at NIH. As the agency responsible for conducting and supporting 90% of all federally funded basic and clinical nutrition research, the NIH has profound effects on nutrition research and monitoring, and the health of all Americans. ASN greatly appreciates the enhanced focus and investment in nutrition research under your guidance.

Please accept our sincere appreciation for your dedication to the NIH and the field of biomedical research. We wish you well in your return to the National Human Genome Research Institute and look forward to continued partnership with the incoming NIH Director to advance nutrition research and, therefore, disease prevention and public health.

On a personal note, I would like to extend my best wishes to you. It was an honor and a pleasure to work in the Office of the Director under your leadership.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul M. Coates".

Paul M. Coates, Ph.D.
2021-2022 President