



COUNCIL FOR THE
ADVANCEMENT OF
NURSING SCIENCE

December 13, 2021

Shannon N. Zenk, PhD, MPH, RN, FAAN
Director
National Institute of Nursing Research
National Institutes of Health
31 Center Drive, Room 5B03
Bethesda, MD 20892-2178

RE: NOT-NR-22-001: Request for Information (RFI) on the NINR 2022-2026 Strategic Plan Framework

Dear Dr. Zenk:

The Council for the Advancement of Nursing Science (CANS) and the American Academy of Nursing (Academy) appreciate the opportunity to respond to the request for information on the National Institute of Nursing Research's (NINR) Strategic Plan for 2022-2026. As the scientific voice for the Academy, CANS formulates and advances research, scientific training, and career development within the profession. In the effort to promote better health, CANS enhances communication among nurse scientists and the public to develop, disseminate, and implement nursing research. The Academy serves the public by advancing health policy through the generation, synthesis, and dissemination of nursing knowledge. Academy Fellows are inducted into the organization for their extraordinary contributions to improve health locally and globally. With more than 2,800 Fellows, the Academy represents nursing's most accomplished leaders in policy, research, administration, practice, and academia.

In our earlier comments during the strategic planning process for NINR, we wrote about the importance of sustaining and elevating nursing science to address diversity, equity, and inclusion as well as championing scientific advances in a changing environment.¹ We reviewed the guiding principles for NINR-supported research as well as the five research lenses (health equity, social determinants of health, population and community health, prevention and health promotion, and systems and models of care) the Institute will use to prioritize research, and we commend this direction. The mission of the Academy and the work of many CANS members, which is focused on health equity in multiple ways, demonstrate the linkages to the NINR's Strategic Plan framework over the next five years.

NINR is a leader in symptom science, genetics/omics, self-management, wellness and end-of-life as well as palliative care research. Over the years, a strong intramural and extramural program at NINR has allowed for advances and positive health outcomes through the integration of technology and cutting-edge methods. NINR has the opportunity to expand three-plus decades of scientific advancement, recognizing that innovation, change, and growth can occur while integrating the new research lenses. Notably, the inclusion of health determinants (e.g., social, structural, behavioral, biological) outlined in the NINR's proposed research lenses is essential to incorporate into future science to answer the most critical research questions in these areas for which NINR is known. The guiding principles can be applied to symptom science, genetics/omics, and palliative care research, which will allow current researchers

¹ Council for the Advancement of Nursing Science & American Academy of Nursing. (2021, September 2). *Letter offering comments regarding the development of the National Institute of Nursing Research's (NINR) Strategic Plan for 2022-2026*. American Academy of Nursing. https://higherlogicdownload.s3.amazonaws.com/AANNET/c8a8da9e-918c-4dae-b0c6-6d630c46007f/UploadedImages/Academy_CANS_NINR_Strategic_Plan_letter__1_.pdf

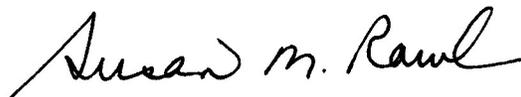
and doctoral students who have built a program of research in these areas to not change course, but have the opportunity to more deeply align their work with the global priority of advancing health equity that has been further exasperated by the pandemic.

In an effort to elevate this body of research, which has been cultivated by critical NINR investments over many years, we look to the draft plan as a way to bolster its impact through the new research lenses. Under the new proposed plan, we see ample opportunity for the growth of NINR's purpose, as outlined in statute, to advance the "conduct and support of, and dissemination of information respecting, basic and clinical nursing research, training, and other programs in patient care research."² We highlight and further note the great importance to be placed on research traineeship and fellowships. As noted above, the proposed plan offers nurse scientists new ways to expand their programs of research. Training on methodologies and the meaningful integration of the five research lenses will need strong investments by NINR, individual researchers, and the institutions that support them. Pre- and post-doctoral training, career development awards, and championing current programs of research to incorporate the guiding principles for NINR-supported research and the five research lenses will take time and dedication.

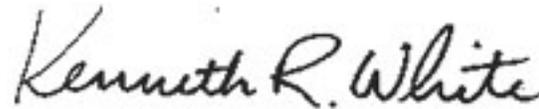
It is for these reasons that CANS and the Academy see the 2022-2026 Strategic Plan for NINR as a way to build upon the significant nursing research advancements made thus far while incorporating new and important directions for the future in this rapidly changing environment. Further and most critically, we look forward to the opportunity to review the full Strategic Plan, which will provide us the opportunity to see how the scientific achievements of NINR, the scientists the Institute has funded, and those it will fund in the future, will address the collective goal of health equity.

CANS and the Academy thank you for the opportunity to provide input into the NINR's Strategic Plan. In the meantime, please call on CANS and the Academy as vested partners in this work. If we can be of any assistance to you or your staff, please do not hesitate to contact the Academy's Senior Director of Policy, Christine Murphy, at cmurphy@aannet.org or 202-777-1174.

Sincerely,



Susan M. Rawl, PhD, RN, FAAHB, FAAN
Chair
Council for the Advancement of Nursing Science



Kenneth R. White, PhD, AGACNP, ACHPN, FACHE,
FAAN
President
American Academy of Nursing

² NIH Revitalization Act (1993). Pub. L. 103-43 (1993) <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/USCODE-2014-title42/pdf/USCODE-2014-title42-chap6A.pdf>