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April 25, 2025

The Honorable Jay Bhattacharya  
Director  
National Institutes of Health  
Bethesda, Maryland 20892

Dear Dr. Bhattacharya,

On behalf of the organizations we lead, the [Population Association of America](#) (PAA) and [Association of Population Centers](#) (APC), we congratulate you on your recent confirmation to serve as the next Director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

As you may know, PAA and APC are two affiliated organizations that together represent over 3,000 population scientists, including demographers, sociologists, economists, and epidemiologists, working in the public, private, non-profit, and academic sectors, and 44 federally funded population research centers nationwide, respectively. Our members compete for discretionary funding from federal scientific research agencies, including the National Institutes of Health (especially the National Institute on Aging and National Institute of Child Health and Human Development) to conduct their research, training, and evaluation activities on the causes and consequences of population change. Further, population scientists' areas of expertise span a wide range of topics, including aging, mortality, fertility, disability, adolescent health, population forecasting, and human development.

Our organizations are pleased to have an NIH Director who not only has intimate knowledge of the social and behavioral sciences, but also prioritizes improving population health. We are looking forward to working with you to advance your goals, including addressing chronic disease, promoting the reliability of scientific research, increasing transparency, and fostering academic freedom. In the spirit of collaboration, we welcome the opportunity to share with you challenges facing our field and to work together to strengthen the nation's scientific enterprise.

Once again, congratulations on your selection and confirmation to serve as the next NIH Director.

Best,

Dr. Irma T. Elo, President  
Population Association of America

Dr. Sarah Burgard, President  
Association of Population Centers