ADVANCING PRINCIPLES OF SCIENTIFIC STEWARDSHIP

The United States benefits from the finest system of research -- fundamental, translational, applied -- in the world. This world-renowned research supported by our federal science agencies, including the **National Institutes of Health (NIH)** and the **National Science Foundation (NSF)**, has been wisely promoted by policymakers from both parties who understand the value of long-term investments in research and who have fostered the creation of a system that allows the best science to flourish. Effective policy planning and appropriate, stable funding levels are essential to producing outcomes that save lives and reduce health care costs; enhance the quality of life of our families and children; improve systems of health care delivery; and lay the scientific foundations for improvements in education, safety, governance, and commerce.

We urge the U.S. Congress and Administration to act as responsible and effective stewards of the scientific infrastructure and to continue to uphold the quality of our nation's research enterprise by embracing the fundamental values that have supported its development and maintained its quality. Failure to apply these principles can only cause harm to the American people and the rest of the world, by undermining the collective efforts of researchers and clinicians who create and transmit knowledge in order to make the world a better place for all. Accordingly, *we strongly urge Congress and the Executive Branch to continue supporting:*

1. *Scientific merit review (also called "peer review") to judge the quality and relevance of research proposals without congressional interference.*

2. *Federal science funding agencies' efforts to assure the quality of federally supported research and its applicability to agencies' missions and priorities.*

3. *Adherence to and promotion of the highest standards of scientific integrity and transparency in developing and making scientific data available to the public.*