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Michael S. Lauer, M.D.
Deputy Director for Extramural Research
National Institutes of Health
Building 1, Room 144
Bethesda MD 20892

August 9, 2016

Dear Dr. Lauer,

The Association of American Universities (AAU), the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU) and Council on Governmental Relations (COGR) thank NIH for its [reconsideration](#) of NOT-OD-16-088: *Notice of Intent to Release Names of NIH-Funded Research Project Personnel in the NIH Research Portfolio Online Reporting Tools Expenditures and Results (RePORTER) System*.

AAU, APLU and COGR believe NOT-OD-16-088 is not advisable for two primary reasons:

1. The policy has the potential to jeopardize the privacy and safety of researchers and other personnel. The potential for harassment is significant, particularly with regard to certain types of research such as animal model and fetal tissue research projects that have attracted extreme objectors.
2. The policy will not meet its intended goals of reflecting the workforce. Given that even individuals who are not supported by NIH are included in the Research Performance Progress Report, listing their names in RePORTER will not provide an accurate representation of the NIH-supported workforce.

Our organizations are available for further discussion as NIH engages in additional consideration of mechanisms to publicly reflect the scope of NIH activities. Please contact [Lizbet Boroughs](#), [Lisa Nichols](#) or [Jennifer Poulakidas](#) should NIH wish to follow-up on our letter.

Sincerely,

Mary Sue Coleman
President
Association of American Universities

Anthony P. DeCrappeo
President
Council on Governmental Relations

Peter McPherson
President
Association of Public and Land-grant
Universities