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October 7, 2022

Dr. Renee Wegrzyn

Director

Advanced Research Project Agency for Health
Bethesda, Maryland 20892

Dear Dr. Wegrzyn,

On behalf of the organizations we lead, the [Population Association of America \(PAA\)](#) and [Association of Population Centers \(APC\)](#), we want to congratulate you on your recent appointment as the Director of the Advanced Research Project Agency for Health (ARPA-H).

PAA and APC are two affiliated organizations representing over 3,000 behavioral and social scientists, including demographers, sociologists, economists, and epidemiologists, and over 40 federally funded U.S. based population research centers. Population scientists study the individual, societal, and environmental consequences of population change. Their expertise covers a wide range of topics including mortality, morbidity, fertility, adolescent health, aging, population forecasting, immigration, and human-environmental interactions. Population research centers foster collaborative demographic research and data sharing, disseminate research findings, and provide educational and training opportunities. The National Institutes of Health (NIH) is the primary source of discretionary, competitive grant funding for the population sciences overall.

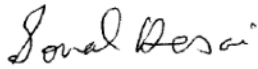
In August 2021, former PAA President Dr. Robert Hummer participated in a listening session that the White House Office and Science Technology Policy (OSTP) and NIH sponsored to solicit input from the scientific research community regarding ARPA-H. In his [prepared remarks](#), Dr. Hummer addressed our field's interests in not only how ARPA-H is organized, but also how its resources could advance scientific progress, citing specific examples of transformative, interdisciplinary research.

Critically, our scientists are expert in understanding how social science research informs the design, implementation and impacts of policy, programs, and industry investments. Particularly, our scientists have the tools, models, and results to explain and anticipate diversity, equity, and inclusion outcomes in relation to improving our nation's health and wellbeing. Our field is looking forward to collaborating with other disciplines to compete for ARPA-H funding and advancing the knowledge and scientific discoveries that will inevitably derive from the agency's support.

We welcome the opportunity to introduce you to the population research community and discuss our interests in ARPA-H. Ms. Mary Jo Hoeksema, Director, PAA/APC Director of Government and Public Affairs, will contact your office to discuss your availability.

We are looking forward to working with you and being of assistance to you and your colleagues. Once again, congratulations on your appointment!

Sincerely,



Dr. Sonalde Desai
President
Population Association of America



Dr. Sara R. Curran
President
Association of Population Centers