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AAU STATEMENT ON RESIGNATION OF NIH DIRECTOR ELIAS ZERHOUMI

Following is a statement by Robert M. Berdahl, President of the Association of American Universities (AAU), on the resignation of National Institutes of Health Director Elias Zerhouni.

Elias Zerhouni was the right leader for NIH in trying times. Through the NIH Reform Act of 2006 and initiatives such as the NIH Roadmap for Medical Research, he led NIH in pressing the frontiers of molecular medicine for the benefit of all Americans and, indeed, the world. In an atmosphere of constrained national resources, Elias became NIH’s most articulate and effective advocate, and in the past several years succeeded in restoring NIH as a top priority for our nation’s leadership. Convinced that the public’s trust is NIH’s most important asset, he strengthened the integrity of NIH and its researchers and has pressed the extramural community to do the same.

Elias will be missed, but we are confident that he will continue to make great contributions to the research enterprise and our society in his next endeavors.

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The Association of American Universities (www.aau.edu) is an association of 62 leading public and private research universities in the United States and Canada organized to develop and implement effective national and institutional policies supporting research and scholarship, graduate, professional, and undergraduate education, and public service in research universities. AAU universities award over one-half of all U.S. doctoral degrees and 55 percent of those in the sciences and engineering.