



America's Leading Research Universities

- Arizona State University
- Boston University
- Brandeis University
- Brown University
- California Institute of Technology
- Carnegie Mellon University
- Case Western Reserve University
- Columbia University
- Cornell University
- Dartmouth College
- Duke University
- Emory University
- The George Washington University
- Georgia Institute of Technology
- Harvard University
- Indiana University
- The Johns Hopkins University
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- McGill University
- Michigan State University
- New York University
- Northwestern University
- The Ohio State University
- The Pennsylvania State University
- Princeton University
- Purdue University
- Rice University
- Rutgers University – New Brunswick
- Stanford University
- Stony Brook University –
- State University of New York
- Texas A&M University
- Tufts University
- Tulane University
- University at Buffalo –
- State University of New York
- The University of Arizona
- University of California, Berkeley
- University of California, Davis
- University of California, Irvine
- University of California, Los Angeles
- University of California, Riverside
- University of California, San Diego
- University of California, Santa Barbara
- University of California, Santa Cruz
- The University of Chicago
- University of Colorado Boulder
- University of Florida
- University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
- The University of Iowa
- The University of Kansas
- University of Maryland, College Park
- University of Miami
- University of Michigan
- University of Minnesota, Twin Cities
- University of Missouri, Columbia
- The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- University of Notre Dame
- University of Oregon
- University of Pennsylvania
- University of Pittsburgh
- University of Rochester
- University of South Florida
- University of Southern California
- The University of Texas at Austin
- University of Toronto
- The University of Utah
- University of Virginia
- University of Washington
- The University of Wisconsin - Madison
- Vanderbilt University
- Washington University in St. Louis
- Yale University

October 25, 2023

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Majority Leader
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Dick Durbin
Majority Whip
711 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Thune
Minority Whip
511 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Leaders Schumer and McConnell,

The Association of American Universities (AAU) encourages swift Senate floor action on the nomination of Dr. Monica Bertagnolli to serve as the director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Dr. Bertagnolli is an innovative leader in oncology clinical research who has, for decades, championed collaborative initiatives to expand access to care and promoted strategies to improve clinical research data infrastructure. She is extremely well-suited to lead the NIH and is held in high regard by her fellow physician-scientists, as evidenced by her election to the National Academy of Medicine.

Indeed, Dr. Bertagnolli has widespread support from over 100 NIH Stakeholder organizations. A June 12, 2023, [letter](#) to Congressional leadership lauded her qualifications and requested a rapid Senate confirmation.

Her leadership in oncology is well-known to AAU and our member institutions. We look forward to continuing that partnership in her new role to further promote advances in science and medicine and to improve the health of all Americans. Bertagnolli is a graduate of two AAU member institutions – she holds a bachelor’s degree in engineering from Princeton University and a medical degree from the University of Utah.

We at AAU understand that representation in leadership is key to advancing the causes of diversity and equity in scientific fields, and I am so pleased that Dr. Bertagnolli would be only the second woman to lead this critical agency. We encourage you to schedule Senate Floor consideration of her nomination as expeditiously as possible.

Thank you for your consideration,

Barbara Snyder
President

