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August 9, 2023

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Dr. Jane M. Simoni
Associate Director for Behavioral and Social Sciences
National Institutes of Health
Bethesda, Maryland 20892

Dear Dr. Simoni,

On behalf of the organizations we lead, the [Population Association of America \(PAA\)](#) and [Association of Population Centers \(APC\)](#), we congratulate you on your recent appointment as the Director of the Office of Behavioral and Social Science Research (OBSSR) at the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

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. Given your previous collaborations with the University of Washington’s Center for Studies in Demography and Ecology, you know firsthand how population research centers foster collaborative demographic research and data sharing, disseminate research findings, and provide educational and training opportunities.

NIH is the primary source of discretionary, competitive grant funding for the population sciences overall. Therefore, our organizations work closely with the agency, in particular the National Institute on Aging, National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, National Institute of Minority Health and Health Disparities, and, of course, OBSSR, to meet the needs of the population research community.

Our Director of Government Affairs Mary Jo Hoeksema will be in contact with your office soon to request an appointment later this year. We are looking forward to meeting with you and your staff so we can learn about your vision for OBSSR and discuss how PAA and APC can be of assistance.

Once again, congratulations on your new position and best of luck!

Sincerely,

Dr. Lisa Berkman
2023 PAA President

Dr. Jennie Brand
2023-2024 APC President