



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

Michael V. Drake, MD
President

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DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

April 23, 2025

The Honorable Dr. Jay Bhattacharya
Director
National Institutes of Health
9000 Rockville Pike
Bethesda, Maryland 20892

Dear Dr. Bhattacharya:

On behalf of the University of California (UC), congratulations on your appointment as Director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). I commend your lifelong commitment to advancing public health and championing scientific inquiry.

Collectively, the ten campuses and six academic health centers of the University of California are the largest research partner of the NIH. I am deeply committed to improving the health of all Americans. From addressing nutrition and chronic disease to public health disparities to spearheading groundbreaking biomedical research that leads to new cures and treatments, the University of California stands ready to continue our longstanding collaboration with the NIH to improve the nation's health.

You have shared a series of critical priorities for NIH that closely align with the work taking place across the UC system, such as increasing the focus on population health, addressing the chronic disease crisis in America, improving research rigor and reproducibility, enabling academic freedom and fostering open scientific dialogue. I would welcome the opportunity to collaborate with you and your team on these priorities as well as other critical issues confronting the US biomedical research enterprise.

I would also like to invite you and your team to visit any of our UC campuses or academic health centers, which would offer an opportunity to engage directly with our researchers, faculty, students, and leadership, who are committed to the NIH's mission.

Thank you for your service and leadership. I look forward to the opportunity to welcome you to the University of California.

Sincerely,

Michael V. Drake, MD
President

cc: UC Senior Vice President for External Relations and Communications
Meredith Turner
UC Associate Vice President for Federal Governmental Relations
Chris Harrington