

1111 North Fairfax Street
Alexandria, VA 22314-1488
703 684 2782
703 684 7343 fax
www.apta.org

January 15, 2013

Francis Collins, MD, PhD, Director
National Institutes of Health
Building 1 Room 126
1 Center Drive
Bethesda MD 20814

Alan Guttmacher, MD, Director
The Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development
National Institutes of Health
31 Center Drive
Room 2A03, MSC 2425
Bethesda Md 20892-2425

Dear Drs. Collins and Guttmacher:

On behalf of the 83,000 members of the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) and the patients we serve, I extend our thanks to you for your dedication and support of rehabilitation research. The recently released report, *Blue Ribbon Panel on Rehabilitation Research*, provided needed review of this important work and outlined potential recommendations for advancing this area of research within the National Institutes of Health and beyond. We greatly appreciate the time and effort the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development provided this endeavor, including the work of its staff and leadership of Drs. Guttmacher and Maddox.

APTA supports the spirit of the report and many of its recommendations. Attached is the Association's statement on the report, for your information. APTA is committed to its partnership with NIH and its efforts to advance biomedical research, especially research that improves the quality of life for individuals with impairments and disabilities through rehabilitation science. For more information or resources, please contact Justin Moore, PT, DPT, APTA's vice president of public policy, practice and professional affairs, at justinmoore@apta.org or 703-706-3162.

Sincerely,



Paul A Rockar, Jr, PT, DPT, MS
President