



November 3, 2003

Elias Zerhouni, MD
Director
National Institutes of Health
9000 Rockville Pike
Bethesda, Maryland 20892

Dear Dr. Zerhouni:

On behalf of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), an organization of over 46,000 physicians dedicated to improving women's health care, I am pleased to offer my support for the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Throughout its history, ACOG has benefited greatly from the research opportunities and scientific breakthroughs of the NIH.

The NIH is comprised of 27 Institutes, each dedicated to furthering intramural and extramural research. The Institutes operate under a rigorous peer review system, where each grant application undergoes two stages of review by experts in their field of study. In 2002, 115 ACOG Members received funding for projects in the fields of obstetrics and gynecology ranging from career development, expansion of research centers, and specialized gynecological investigations.

Its extensive research agenda has placed NIH at the forefront of scientific discovery. In only forty years, the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development is credited with the advent of the pregnancy test, and contraceptive and newborn screening research.

We thank the National Institutes of Health for its continued dedication to the prevention, detection and treatment of disease, improving the health of the American public. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Krysta Jones, ACOG Government Relations staff, at (202) 314-2322.

Sincerely,

Ralph W. Hale, MD, FACOG
Executive Vice President