

# **ATPM** ASSOCIATION OF TEACHERS OF PREVENTIVE MEDICINE

## **ATPM Statement in Support of the NIH Peer Review System**

The Association of Teachers of Preventive Medicine (ATPM), a national association supporting health promotion and disease prevention educators and researchers, advances population-based and public health education, research and service by linking and supporting members of the academic prevention community. ATPM represents over 1,000 members who are preventive medicine and public health faculty, researchers, residents and students within schools of medicine, schools of public health, schools of nursing, graduate programs and health agencies.

ATPM continues its support of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) peer-review system. The NIH peer-review system is a model grant selection process ensuring the utmost quality and integrity of scientific research. ATPM is concerned with reports that over 200 funded projects on HIV/AIDS research may go through intensive investigation at the request of special interest advocacy groups. ATPM believes the peer-review system is the best model for scientific integrity and should be independent of political or ideological interests.

For more than fifty years, NIH has supported scientific research, making the United States a world leader in science and medicine. In order to remain a world leader, NIH must continue to support research which protects the health of the public. Many of the funded grants that have recently come under scrutiny involve HIV/AIDS research. It is dire for NIH to support continual research on populations of high risk for HIV/AIDS such as immigrants, homosexuals, sex workers, drug workers, etc. in an effort to eliminate the spread of HIV/AIDS. As the lead organization for advancing population-based and public health education, research and service, ATPM urges the federal government, including the Administration, Congress, and HHS, to continue to support research to improve the health of the public.

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