

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

October 28, 2020

Francis S. Collins, MD, PhD  
Director, National Institutes of Health  
9000 Rockville Pike  
Bethesda, MD 20892

Re: PAR-18-940, Clinical and Translational Science Award

Dear Dr. Collins,

We write regarding the University of Arizona (UA)'s proposal to the NIH Clinical and Translational Science Awards (CTSA) program: Strategically Leveraging Precision Medicine and Learning Healthcare Systems to Advance Clinical and Translational Science and Health Equity.

The University of Arizona (UA) is a nationally acclaimed research institution with Colleges of Medicine in Phoenix and Tucson, and Colleges of Nursing, Pharmacy, and Public Health in Tucson. The UA partners with Banner University Medical Group, a network that spans 27 hospitals and other facilities, which allows them to conduct multi-site clinical research through an expansive healthcare delivery system. With more than 45,000 students and over 15,000 faculty and staff, the UA has a significant presence throughout Arizona and would be an excellent addition to NIH's CTSA program.

The UA and Banner created the Arizona Clinical and Translational Science (AZiCATS) collaborative in 2009 to translate their research into new clinical care interventions to address health conditions that disproportionately affect underserved tribal, rural, and elderly populations unique to Arizona and have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. We share the UA's commitment to addressing these challenges and improving the well-being of these populations.

AZiCATS seeks to promote health equity by working with populations that experience higher rates of illness and death to participate in research initiatives designed to address their limited access to care and elevated risk factors. If awarded this opportunity, AZiCATS would be able to:

- Collaborate with partners in Arizona's diverse communities to increase opportunities for participation in regionally relevant and community-informed clinical and translational research.
- Transform scientific discoveries into applicable technologies and results that can be shared with research participants and improve population health.
- Train the next generation of Arizona's health professionals in culturally competent care methods across the entire clinical and translational spectrum.

The UA and AZiCATS are already improving population health and would be exceptional members of NIH's national CTSA consortium. In accordance with all existing agency rules, regulations, and ethical guidelines, we urge you to give this proposal full and fair consideration as you make these important funding decisions. Thank you.


Sincerely,



Kyrsten Sinema  
U.S. Senator



Martha McSally  
U.S. Senator



Raúl M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress



Tom O'Halleran  
Member of Congress



Ann Kirkpatrick  
Member of Congress



Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S.  
Member of Congress



Andy Biggs  
Member of Congress



David Schweikert  
Member of Congress



Ruben Gallego  
Member of Congress



Debbie Lesko  
Member of Congress



Greg Stanton  
Member of Congress