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Christine Hunter, PhD, ABPP
Acting Director
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Dear Dr. Kenny and Dr. Hunter:

On behalf of the members of the Association for Psychological Science (APS), I congratulate you on the release of the Integration of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Council of Councils Working Group Report.

The comprehensive analyses presented illustrate that despite the many benefits the behavioral and social sciences can contribute to improving health, there are gaps and variations in the degree to which NIH institutes and centers draw on these sciences. Systemic underinvestment in the behavioral and social sciences ensures that the nation will fail in efforts to combat behavior-related health conditions.

The report's conclusions align with APS's view that NIH must grow its investments in behavioral and social science research, that NIH should increase the number of behavioral and social scientists employed in its various institutes and centers, and that institutes and centers should develop dedicated work units focused on the behavioral and social sciences.

APS has long worked to highlight for policymakers the critical importance of the behavioral and social sciences to improved health and well-being. We thus share the perspective offered today by one of the Council of Councils members who noted: We hope that this report serves as a beginning, not an end, for renewed focus on increased integration and strengthening of the behavioral and social sciences at NIH. We look forward to working with you to bring the report recommendations to other health and research stakeholders.

Sincerely,



Robert Gropp, PhD
Chief Executive Officer/Executive Director