August 19, 2025

Michael Kratsios
Director, Office of Science and Technology Policy
1650 Pennsylvania Avenue NW Washington, DC 20502

Dear Director Kratsios,

America's future hinges on a simple truth: **Investing in good science isn't a luxury; it's a necessity.** From breakthroughs in medicine to technological advancements that drive our economy, rigorous, unbiased scientific inquiry has always been the bedrock of our progress. As members of the diverse scientific, research, public health, academic communities and organizations representing individuals and their families, we are keenly interested in the recent Executive Order "Restoring the Gold Standard in Science." We share the overarching goal of ensuring that science serving the public good is of the highest quality, integrity, and utility.

However, we must underscore a vital point: **The gold standard for science exists**, and its success is demonstrated in every facet of American life—from the development of life-saving vaccines and the journey to the moon to the technological revolution that powers our modern economy. It's built on established norms and values that have, for centuries, guided the global scientific enterprise. We urge policymakers to recognize that any efforts to strengthen scientific integrity must build upon, rather than undermine, these foundational pillars. Directives that bypass the expert judgment of the established scientific community, or impose rigid, personally motivated criteria on scientific evaluation, will stifle innovation, discourage crucial research, and ultimately erode public trust. While scientific progress depends on rigorous debate and challenging existing ideas, this process is not a matter of opinion. It requires that all claims, especially dissenting ones, be backed by verifiable evidence and withstand the same level of scrutiny as the ideas they challenge.

This "gold standard" is a methodological, evidence-based foundation from which we can build reliable knowledge and strengthen the future of scientific exploration and discovery. We must continue to strive for a community-driven enterprise where ideas are rigorously tested, subjected to the scrutiny of peers, and continuously refined or corrected in the face of new evidence. Inherent in this process are core values that include:

- **Empirical Rigor:** A relentless commitment to evidence-based discovery through meticulous observation, experimentation, and data analysis.
- **Objectivity and Impartiality:** A steadfast pursuit of truth, free from political, ideological, or commercial interference.

- **Transparency and Open Inquiry:** The open sharing of methods, data (where appropriate and ethical), and findings to enable scrutiny, replication, and the building of cumulative knowledge.

- **Peer Review:** The cornerstone of quality control, where proposed research and findings are rigorously evaluated by independent experts before dissemination.

- **Reproducibility and Replicability:** The ability to obtain the same findings when repeating procedures, and the expectation that experiments can be independently recreated by others with consistent scientific results.

- **Continuous Self-Correction:** The inherent capacity of science to revise understanding in light of new evidence gathered using rigorous scientific methods.

- **Range of Thought and Experience**: Gathering input from researchers of varied backgrounds, disciplines, and perspectives is essential for challenging assumptions, preventing groupthink, identifying and reducing errors, and fostering more creative and robust solutions to complex problems."

These values are not abstract ideals but are actively fostered through the following key practices that govern scientific work:

- **Scientific Training and Education:** The meticulous process of educating future scientists instills critical thinking, ethical conduct, and methodological expertise.

- **Research Methodology:** The development and application of sound research methodologies, experimental design, and statistical analysis are paramount to ensure valid and robust conclusions.

- **Publication and Dissemination:** The system of scholarly publishing, centered on rigorous peer review in reputable journals, vets research findings for quality and adherence to scientific standards before they enter the public domain.

We stand ready to engage in constructive dialogue with the Executive Office of the President, Congress, and all relevant federal agencies. By supporting and upholding the integrity of our existing scientific ecosystem, we can collectively ensure that federally funded science remains a vital and trusted resource for informing policy, fostering innovation, and addressing the nation's most pressing challenges.

Sincerely,

American Psychological Association

American Psychological Association Services Inc.

Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments

American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology

American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine

American Association for Anatomy

American Association for Dental, Oral, and Craniofacial Research

American Association of Immunologists

American Association of Physicists in Medicine

American Association on Health and Disability

American Astronomical Society

American College of Chest Physicians

American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics

American Educational Research Association

American Foundation for Suicide Prevention

American Geophysical Union

American Industrial Hygiene Association

American Institute of Biological Sciences

American Medical Informatics Association (AMIA)

American Oil Chemists' Society (AOCS)

American Physiological Society

American Political Science Association

American Psychiatric Association

American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

American Society for Clinical Pharmacology & Therapeutics

American Society for Microbiology

American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics (ASPET)

American Society of Agronomy

American Society of Civil Engineers

American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene

American Speech-Language-Hearing Association

American Thoracic Society

Americans for Medical Progress

Association for Psychological Science

Association for the Sciences of Limnology and Oceanography

Association of Environmental Engineering and Science Professors

Association of Population Centers

Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America

Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences

Biophysical Society

Botanical Society of America

CFHA: The Integrated Care Association

Climate Psychiatry Alliance

Coalition for Academic Scientific Computation

Coalition for the Advancement and Application of Clinical Science

Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation

Columbia University Vagelos College of Physicians & Surgeons

Consortium of Social Science Associations

Council of Graduate Departments of Psychology (COGDOP)

Council on Undergraduate Research

Crop Science Society of America

Endocrine Society

Entomological Society of America

Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology

Federation of Associations in Behavioral and Brain Sciences

Foundation for Sarcoidosis Research (FSR)

Gerontological Society of America

ICWUC Center for Worker Health and Safety Education

International OCD Foundation

International Society for Stem Cell Research

International Society of Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurses

Lakeshore Foundation

Massachusetts Association for Mental Health

National Alliance on Mental Illness

National Association of Environmental Professionals

National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners

National Postdoctoral Association

Organization of Biological Field Stations

Physicians for Social Responsibility

Population Association of America

Psychological Clinical Science Accreditation System

Psychonomic Society

Social & Affective Neuroscience Society (SANS)

Society for Behavioral Neuroendocrinology

Society for Freshwater Science

Society for Industrial and Organizational Psychology

Society for Personality and Social Psychology

Society for Public Health Education

Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD)

Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues (SPSSI)

Society of Behavioral Medicine

Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry of North America (SETAC North America)

Society of General Physiologists

Soil Science Society of America

SPIE, the international society for optics and photonics

The Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO)

The Protein Society

The Wildlife Society

Treatment Advocacy Center

United States Pharmacopeia

Vision Sciences Society

Woodwell Climate Research Center

CC:
National Science Foundation (NSF)
National Institutes of Health (NIH)
Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)
Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H)
Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA)
Department of Energy Office of Science (DOE)
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)
National Institute of Justice (NIJ)
National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)
Department of Agriculture (USDA)
House Committee on Science Space & Tech
Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
House Committee on Energy and Commerce
Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
House Committee on Appropriations
Senate Committee on Appropriations
House Committee on Agriculture
Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry