HealthyWomen’s Statement on Dr. Francis S. Collins’ Impending Departure From the National Institutes of Health

HealthyWomen wishes to convey our sincere appreciation to Francis S. Collins, M.D., Ph.D., for his tenure as the director of the National Institutes of Health. His 12 years of service leading the largest supporter of biomedical and health research in the world have been instrumental in advancing the healthcare resources for women worldwide.

"As Dr. Collins embarks on a new path and steps down from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), HealthyWomen would like to pay gratitude to him for his many years leading the NIH and for his recognition of the importance of women's health research and implementing a new NIH policy in 2015 requiring the examination of sex differences starting at the cellular level," said Phyllis E. Greenberger, senior vice president of science and health policy for HealthyWomen. "We’re grateful for his stewardship through various scientific challenges especially during the current Covid-19 pandemic. Dr. Collins’ legacy of leadership and service toward the advancement of science will undeniably endure for generations to follow."

Dr. Collins took office on August 17, 2009, as the 16th NIH director after being appointed by President Barack Obama and confirmed by the U.S. Senate. In 2017, he was asked to remain in his role by President Donald Trump, followed by President Joe Biden in 2021. Prior to becoming the NIH director, Dr. Collins served as the director of the National Human Genome Research Institute from 1993-2008, where he ran the international Human Genome Project.

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About HealthyWomen: Founded in 1988, HealthyWomen is the nation’s leading nonprofit women’s health information source dedicated to educating and empowering women ages 35-64 to make informed decisions about their health care. Throughout the years, we have educated healthcare consumers and providers about advances in women’s health, from the latest information on diseases and conditions to various milestones pertaining to access to care. We ensure that women have accurate, balanced, evidence-based information so they can participate in shared decision-making with their healthcare providers. We also educate our audience regarding innovations in research and science as well as changes in policy that affect women’s access to treatment and care so that women are prepared to self-advocate for better health outcomes.