



April 17, 2019

Dear Tribal Leader and Urban Indian Organization Leader:

I am writing to initiate a Tribal Consultation and an Urban Confer on the National Institutes of Health (NIH) policies on Intellectual Property, Inventions, and Patent Rights in Biomedical Research. We highly encourage Tribal leaders and members of the community to discuss how the NIH policies are applied to Intellectual Property and Inventions arising from federally-funded research projects. We are seeking your input on how these policies impact NIH-supported biomedical research with Tribal communities. Understanding these complex processes and policies will allow Tribal nations to engage in effective and meaningful research either as principal investigators or with academic partners.

In accordance with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Tribal Consultation Policy (TCP), NIH is announcing a ***Tribal Consultation on NIH Intellectual Property Rights in Biomedical Research***. We encourage you to participate in this important event, which will convene on June 24, 2019, preceding the National Congress of American Indians mid-year conference in Sparks, Nevada. For additional information, please visit the event website, available at the following link:

<http://www.ncai.org/events/2019/06/23/2019-mid-year-conference-marketplace>

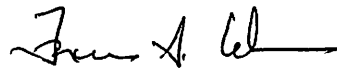
If you are unable to travel for the consultation meeting, we will have a toll-free conference line available. Tribal leaders and participants may obtain the toll-free number and agenda from the NIH Tribal Advisory Committee's website at: <https://dpcpsi.nih.gov/thro>, or send a request to participate by teleconference to Kendra King Bowes (kking@mn-e.com). Additionally, you are encouraged to send any testimony, comments, and questions before and after the consultation meeting to: NIHTribalCommittee@od.nih.gov.

The NIH mission, primarily achieved through research, research training, and the dissemination of research findings, is to seek fundamental knowledge about the nature and behavior of living systems and to apply that knowledge to enhance health, lengthen life, and reduce illness and disability.

NIH remains committed to continuing its efforts to maintain and improve relations with Tribal nations and to partnering with Tribal nations to use the power of science to support healthier communities. For more information, please contact Dr. David Wilson, Director of the NIH Tribal Health Research Office, at: NIHTribalCommittee@od.nih.gov.

We look forward to receiving your input on this timely and important topic, as we work to improve the health of American Indian and Alaska Native communities through research.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Francis S. Collins". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Francis S. Collins, M.D., Ph.D.
Director