

Board of Directors

Susan Alpert, PhD, MD
Chair
Minneapolis, MN

John J. Seng
Chair Elect
Spectrum Communications
Washington, DC

Dennis Cryer, MD, FAHA
Secretary-Treasurer
CryerHealth, LLC.
Washington, DC

Lindsey A. Kerr, MD
Immediate Past Chair
Maine Urologic Wellness Center*
Bangor, ME

~~~~

**Gail L. Daubert, JD**  
Reed Smith  
Washington, DC

**Roberta Gartside, MD**  
New Image Plastic Surgery Associates, PLC  
Reston, VA

**Paula Johnson, MD, MPH**  
Connors Center for Women's Health and  
Gender Biology  
Brigham and Women's Hospital  
Boston, MA

**Carol Kelly, MPA**  
National Association of Chain  
Drug Stores  
Arlington, VA

**Valerie Montgomery Rice, MD**  
Morehouse School of Medicine  
Atlanta, GA

**Donnica L. Moore, MD**  
DrDonnica.com  
Sapphire Women's Health Group LLC  
Chester, NJ

**Stephanie Pincus, MD, MBA**  
Institute of Medicine  
Alexandria, VA

**Judith K. Wolf, MD, MS**  
Chief Medical Officer  
Vermillion, Inc.  
Austin, TX

~~~~

Florence P. Haseltine, PhD, MD
Founder
Society for Women's Health Research
Alexandria, VA

Phyllis Greenberger, MSW
President and CEO
Society for Women's Health Research
Washington, D.C.

October 30, 2015

Office of Science Policy and Communications
National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA)
6001 Executive Boulevard
Bethesda, MD 20892

To Whom it May Concern:

The Society for Women's Health Research (SWHR®) is pleased to respond to the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) request for comment on its 2016-2020 draft strategic plan. SWHR, a national non-profit organization based in Washington, D.C., is widely recognized as the thought leader in promoting research on sex differences and is dedicated to improving women's health through advocacy, education, and research. As women number among the growing rate of Americans using illegal drugs and/or living with substance abuse disorders, SWHR is supportive of NIDA's vision for the Institute while looking forward to future research developments and collaborations that will support the strategic plan goals.

Collaboration across National Institutes of Health (NIH) Institutes and Centers and other federal agencies will be essential to implementation of this strategic plan. For example, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the Department of Justice (DOJ) currently develop and implement drug abuse prevention programs and clinician/patient resources at varying levels. Throughout the next five years, NIDA should reach out to each of these agencies, and others as applicable, to provide results from its studies as well as understand existing best practices in the field.

In addition, NIH coordinating committees such as the NIH Coordinating Committee on Research on Women's Health could be consulted to provide guidance on specific research strategies. These opportunities to share resources and knowledge should not be overlooked. As a result, SWHR respectfully requests NIDA to detail its plans for collaboration with other NIH Institutes and Centers, federal agencies/departments, and the private sector in the final version of this strategic plan.

SWHR is encouraged to see that NIDA will highlight its research on women and sex differences in the strategic plan. This is an incredibly important area for research as drug interactions vary by individual biology and environment. Therefore, more research will need to be conducted to ensure prevention and treatment programs are successful. In addition to discussing current research programs on women's health and sex differences, we hope that NIDA will include a brief overview of research gaps and future initiatives for these programs as a result of its existing priorities.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. We look forward to partnering with you to ensure the success of this strategic plan.

Sincerely,



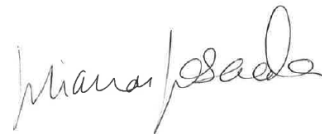
Andrea L. Lowe, MPH, CPH
Health Policy Analyst



Leslie Ritter, MA
Vice President, Public Policy



Monica Mallampalli, PhD, MSc
Vice President, Scientific Affairs



Liliana Losada Brown, PhD
Associate Director, Scientific Programs