



**SWHR Public Comments: National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health (NCCIH)
Stakeholder Meeting for Research on Whole Person Health**
October 17-18, 2022 | Virtual

Good afternoon, and thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on research and needs related to implementing whole person health. My name is Kathryn Schubert, and I am the president and CEO of the Society for Women's Health Research, or SWHR. SWHR is a more than 30-year-old national nonprofit dedicated to promoting research on biological sex differences and improving women's health through science, policy, and education.

As part of our mission, SWHR seeks to identify gaps and opportunities in women's health across the lifespan and drive policy change. As we consider ways to achieve whole-person health, we must look at where we can drive change in women's health.

Notably, when it comes to women's health we have to think about women's health across the lifespan and ensure that life stages, such as pregnancy and menopause, and different conditions are not considered in isolation, but instead are measured as part of a woman's health over time. Further, "women's health" should not be narrowed to only body parts or functions. Too often women's reproductive health is considered as birth control or health related to a woman's reproductive years, when in reality, reproductive health is a continuum encompassing pregnancy and post-partum as well as conditions like endometriosis and infertility.

Beyond our general classification of women's health, there are important steps to be taken when it comes to data collection and improving our ability connect dots across the lifespan. We need to improve our ability to capture data at each life stage, map out that data, and ensure it is being connected across systems in a way that can best advance our understanding of factors that could influence women's health. Among the opportunities are overlaying health care data with social determinants of health data, linking mom and baby records, and ensuring maternity-related care coordination with primary care and specialty care.

SWHR looks forward to working with the National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health on future opportunities related to whole-person health and thanks the Center for the opportunity to provide comments today.