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Elisa A. Hurley, PhD

March 30, 2022

Dr. Alondra Nelson

Interim Director

Office of Science and Technology Policy

Executive Office of the President

Eisenhower Executive Office Building

1650 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW

Washington, DC 20504

Via email: engagement@ostp.eop.gov

Dear Dr. Nelson,

This letter from Public Responsibility in Medicine and Research (PRIM&R) is in strong support of the recent call by the Presidents of the National Academy of Sciences and the National Academy of Medicine, Dr. Marcia Nutt and Dr. Victor Dzau, respectively, for the reinstatement of a Presidential Commission on Bioethics.

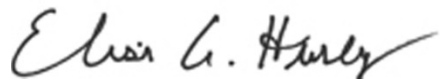
PRIM&R is a nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing the highest ethical standards in the conduct of research. Since 1974, PRIM&R has served as a professional home and trusted thought leader for the research protections community. Through educational programming, professional development opportunities, and public policy initiatives, PRIM&R seeks to ensure that all stakeholders in the research enterprise appreciate the central importance of ethics to the advancement of science.

Drs. McNutt and Dzau, as well as the highly esteemed bioethics and research ethics experts who authored the white paper that was appended to their letter, list reasons for why the convening of such a body is imperative. In addition to those reasons, PRIM&R notes that, over the last decade, there have been wide-ranging advances in science and medicine and a proliferation in the ubiquitous use of digital technologies in medicine, research, as well as in everyday life. The emergence and widespread adoption of these advances and technologies have far outpaced societal deliberations on their ethical dimensions and implications. The enormously complex and rapidly evolving nature of ethical issues in this realm warrants the sustained attention of an entity with the stature a Presidential commission. As you may recall, in a 2016 report, *Optimizing the Nation's Investment in Academic Research: A New*

Regulatory Framework for the 21st Century ([See Chapter 9](#))¹ the National Academies also recommended the establishment of a similar body. In the six years since the publication of that report, the ethical questions, challenges, and opportunities facing medicine and research have only grown in scope and complexity, underscoring the urgent need for a nationally recognized and respected entity to address these issues. Thus, PRIM&R strongly endorses the recommendation for the reinstatement of a Presidential Commission on Bioethics via a Presidential Executive Order.

Thank you for your consideration and if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me by phone at (617) 423-4112 or e-mail at ehurley@primr.org.

Sincerely,



Elisa A. Hurley, PhD
Executive Director

cc: PRIM&R Public Policy Committee, PRIM&R Board of Directors

¹ National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. 2016. *Optimizing the Nation's Investment in Academic Research: A New Regulatory Framework for the 21st Century*. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press. doi: 10.17226/21824.