



August 16, 2022

Lawrence Tabak, DDS, PhD
Acting Director
National Institutes of Health
9000 Rockville Pike
Bethesda, Maryland 20892

Dear Acting Director Tabak:

On behalf of the American College of Physicians (ACP), I am writing to share our appreciation of the major efforts of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to address the COVID-19 pandemic, especially regarding long term COVID-19 symptoms after initial infection known as Post-Acute COVID-19 Syndrome (PACS). *ACP strongly encourages the NIH to proceed as fast as is considered scientifically appropriate with the funding of well-designed treatment trials in light of the lingering and debilitating symptoms so many are experiencing from this condition.*

ACP is the largest medical specialty organization and the second largest physician membership society in the United States. ACP members include 160,000 internal medicine physicians (internists), related subspecialists, and medical students. Internal medicine physicians are specialists who apply scientific knowledge, clinical expertise, and compassion to the preventive, diagnostic, and therapeutic care of adults across the spectrum from health to complex illness. Internal medicine specialists treat many of the patients at greatest risk from COVID-19, including the elderly and patients with pre-existing conditions such as diabetes, heart disease and asthma.

ACP has advocated for increased funding for the NIH in several letters to Congressional leadership both to continue the standard work of the NIH and to expand research and appropriate responses to the COVID-19 pandemic. We recognize and commend current NIH research into PACS including the NIH Researching Covid to Enhance Recovery (RECOVER) Initiative which has created a cohort of new and existing studies being expanded to research the causes and effects of PACS.

Recent NIH research identifying characteristics of PACS and those more likely to develop PACS is a major step towards improved diagnosis and treatment options. We strongly encourage the NIH to proceed to fund PACS treatment trials as soon as deemed scientifically appropriate in order to help individuals and families who are still struggling with lingering and debilitating

symptoms after the difficult experience of acute COVID-19. It is imperative that we understand the long-term effects of PACS, and how we may be able to prevent and treat these effects moving forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "RDM", enclosed within a large, loopy oval scribble.

Ryan D. Mire, MD, FACP
President