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November 21, 2023

Submitted via web portal

RE: Request for Information (RFI) on Inviting Comments and Suggestions on Updating the NIH Mission Statement

The American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics (ASPET) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on Request for Information (RFI) on Inviting Comments and Suggestions on Updating the NIH Mission Statement. ASPET is a 4,000-member scientific society whose members conduct basic and clinical pharmacological research and work in academia, government, industry, and non-profit organizations. ASPET is a global pharmacology community, whose members' research advance the science of drugs and therapeutics to accelerate the discovery of cures for existing and emerging disease. We are in constant pursuit of our Mission through research, education, innovation, and advocacy.

ASPET appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on the proposed update to the NIH Mission Statement. ASPET supports the use or more direct language with the word "apply" but has concerns on the implications of "optimize health", where the word optimize can have different meaning and interpretation for different individuals and groups. ASPET encourages NIH to explore the use of other wording like "enhance health" or "better health" that have less ambiguity and potential misconstrued interpretations.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on NIH's proposed update to its mission statement.

Transforming Discoveries into Therapies

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