



NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

Office of the President

April 19, 2019

Dear Colleague:

The National Academy of Sciences was founded to serve the nation and to recognize and promote the best science. As a private nonprofit organization, we increasingly depend on philanthropy to support our role in validating scientific excellence; enhancing the vitality of the scientific enterprise; guiding public policy with science; and communicating the nature, values, and judgments of science. By making a gift to the NAS today, you send a clear statement affirming the importance of advancing science literacy, innovation, and education for the benefit of all humanity.

Your support puts science first, allowing the NAS to remain a leader and expand national and international dialogues to respond proactively to emerging challenges. Private support, now more than ever, plays a critical role in everything we do—from public engagement activities to the work of our Committee on Human Rights, to our efforts to represent American science internationally. Our responsibility to the public is ever more necessary in a world of misinformation.

I am frequently asked, “Is the government still coming to the Academies for advice?” The resounding answer is “yes.” In 2018 during the 115th Congress, our study committees and staff briefed congressional offices more than 190 times, highlighting some 80 Academies’ reports. But although the government still values and seeks our advice, government funding has continued to decrease over the past several years; unfortunately, I do not see this trend changing in the near future. Your gift will play an increasingly vital role in our ability to continue to provide evidence-based groundbreaking reports that help to address emerging complex and challenging issues.

Philanthropy and other sources of external funding enable the Academies to engage the public by providing the most up-to-date, evidence-based information about science and health. New public outreach activities, such as *Based on Science*—a recently-launched online resource dedicated to answering common, everyday questions that people have about science and human health issues—are utilizing a variety of communication mediums to provide the public with fact-based answers to questions on topics like the safety of vaccines, misinformation about which is fueling the current measles outbreaks in the United States and elsewhere. *Based on Science* is actively engaging with the public through email, social media, and the web to counter such misinformation by providing clear and concise fact-based answers that can easily be shared and disseminated. This type of information is urgently needed to protect and advance the health of communities in our country, and you play a direct role in our continued ability to meet this challenge.

Additionally, private philanthropy plays a vital role in helping the Academy develop talent in science and technology. The Kavli Frontiers of Science (KFoS) symposia bring together outstanding early-career scientists to discuss exciting advances and opportunities in a broad range of disciplines and establish lifelong professional connections that can be maintained as participants advance in their careers. Through one-on-one conversations and informal group discussions, KFoS symposia help to foster an interdisciplinary research network that encourages collaborations and partnerships among some of the world's best and brightest scientists. Bilateral symposia have included young researchers in the U.K., Germany, France, Japan, China, Indonesia, India, Israel, and South Korea.

Your contribution ensures that the nation continues to have a trusted authority on a broad range of issues related to science and technology. Through our legislative outreach, public engagement programs, and international partnerships, you help us give science a strong and effective voice. I have enclosed our 2018 *By the Numbers* report, a snapshot of philanthropy's impact at the NAS last year. With your support, we can be even more effective in 2019! **I hope you will join me in supporting the NAS Annual Fund today.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marcia McNutt". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the name.

Marcia McNutt
President