

FOR RELEASE: May 4, 2018 Contact: Carole Treston, Executive Director Email: <u>carole@anacnet.org</u>

## Association of Nurses in AIDS Care (ANAC) Joins NIH in Launching the All of Us Research Program to Advance Precision Medicine

Enrollment set to open nationwide for historic research effort

On May 6, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) will open national enrollment for the All of Us Research Program—a momentous effort to advance individualized prevention, treatment and care for people of all backgrounds—in collaboration with partner organizations across the United States, including the Association of Nurses in AIDS Care (ANAC).

People ages 18 and older, regardless of health status, will be able to enroll. The official launch date will be marked by community events in cities across the country as well as an online event. The overall aim is to enroll 1 million or more volunteers and oversample communities that have been underrepresented in research to make the program the largest, most diverse resource of its kind.

"The time is now to transform how we conduct research—with participants as partners—to shed new light on how to stay healthy and manage disease in more personalized ways. This is what we can accomplish through All of Us," said NIH Director Francis S. Collins, M.D., Ph.D.

Precision medicine is an emerging approach to disease treatment and prevention that considers differences in people's lifestyles, environments and biological makeup, including genes. By partnering with 1 million diverse people who share information about themselves over many years, the All of Us Research Program will enable research to more precisely prevent and treat a variety of health conditions.

"All of us are unique, but today we live mostly in an era of 'one-size-fits-all' medicine," said Eric Dishman, director of the All of Us Research Program. "I'm alive today because of precision medicine and I think everyone deserves that same opportunity no matter the color of your skin, your economic status, your age or your sex or gender. In other words, it will truly take *all* of us."

All of Us seeks to transform the relationship between researchers and participants, bringing them together as partners to inform the program's directions, goals and responsible return of research information. Participants will be able to access their own health information, summary data about the entire participant community and information about studies and findings that come from All of Us.

"ANAC and its members have been part of medical research for decades. We have seen the tremendous benefit of research for our patients," said Carole Treston, RN MPH, ACRN, FAAN, Executive Director of ANAC. "It's important to us that the program achieves maximum participation from people in the United States, which will help our patient community learn about the program and has the opportunity to participate, as maximum participation will contribute information across many health conditions. As people live longer with HIV and experience other diseases and conditions, this will be increasingly important."

NIH has funded more than 100 organizations throughout the U.S. to be partners in the program, including ANAC. ANAC is participating by educating nurses and other ANAC members about All of Us, so they can, in turn, raise awareness with their patients and within their communities about the program and opportunities to participate.

On the program's May 6 launch date, the All of Us Research Program will host special events in diverse communities around the country. People also may take part in social media activities (#JoinAllofUs) or tune in at https://Launch.JoinAllofUs.org to watch speakers across the country talk about precision medicine and the power of volunteering for research.

To learn more about the program and how to join, please visit https://www.JoinAllofUs.org.

"All of Us" is a registered service mark of the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS).

The Association of Nurses in AIDS Care (ANAC) is the leading nonprofit association for nurses and other members of the health care team working in HIV and HIV-related prevention, care, treatment, education, research and policy. Founded in 1987, ANAC's mission is to foster the professional development of nurses and others caring for persons at risk, living with, or affected by Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and its comorbidities, and promotes the health, welfare, and rights of HIV positive people around the world. ANAC has members across the globe and includes 40 local chapters in the U.S. ANAC publishes the Journal of the Association of Nurses in AIDS Care (JANAC), a peer-reviewed publication with a global readership, focusing on nurse-led scientific research. Learn more at <u>www.nursesinaidscare.org.</u>