February 6, 2014

\textbf{Electronically Submitted:}

Martha J. Somerman, D.D.S., Ph.D.
Director
National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research
National Institutes of Health
Bethesda, MD 20892

Re: ADEA Comments on NIDCR’s Draft Strategic Plan 2014-2019

Dear Dr. Somerman,

The American Dental Education Association (ADEA) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments and observations before the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR) finalizes its 2014-2019 Strategic Plan. ADEA commends the NIDCR on its thorough planning process; first, assessing current NIDCR programs and research initiatives, and then engaging its broad range of stakeholders for input.

In September 2013, ADEA electronically submitted comments to the NIDCR Strategic Planning and Priority Setting Committee. ADEA is pleased to see the inclusion of key areas of interest for the dental education community, such as enriching the scientific workforce, focusing on health disparities research, and aligning resources to enrich databases for more effective and efficient data mining, sharing and dissemination. Keen attention to personalized medicine in the strategic plan will ensure that oral, dental, and craniofacial research is on pace with formative fields in the broader health research to improve the quality and treatment of health care. ADEA congratulates the pervasive commitment to team-oriented research, which will ensure a well-trained cadre of investigators to significantly contribute to the multidisciplinary and complex oral, dental and craniofacial diseases and conditions. Lastly, the focus on collaboration with academic dental institutions will strengthen critical relationships and encourage better coordination of programming.

ADEA is excited by the expansive yet deliberate direction of the NIDCR’s Draft Strategic Plan 2014-2019. The strategic plan resonates with ADEA, and positions NIDCR to provide leadership in biomedical research and public health. As a strong partner, ADEA will continue to work closely with the NIDCR to ensure the future of dental research and scientific discovery. For further commentary, please do not hesitate to contact Yvonne Knight, J.D., Senior Vice President for Advocacy and Governmental Relations at knighty@adea.org.

Sincerely,

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Richard W. Valachovic, D.M.D., M.P.H.
President and CEO
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