



Linguistic Society of America

February 15, 2019

National Institute of Child Health and Human Development
P.O. Box 3006, Rockville, MD 20847

RE: Linguistic Society of America – Comments on NICHD Strategic Plan

Understanding the biological influences and markers of development is certainly an important area of research; however, non-biological research is also critical, especially to our understanding of linguistic, social, emotional, and educational development. Physical and social science methods go hand in hand, with each informing our understanding of the results of the other, leading to important translational research. Such applications would not be possible if important social science research had not first described patterns of language use, leading to the discovery of related biological mechanisms. Over the past several decades, research on language (much of it supported by NIH) has expanded our understanding of the milestones of language acquisition, developmental disorders of language, and sign languages. Today, linguistic researchers are addressing new challenges including the complexities of multilingual language acquisition and the impact of new technologies on children. Thus, the Linguistic Society of America strongly encourages NICHD to specifically target developmental language research in its strategic goals.

Sincerely,

Alyson Reed
Executive Director