



April 6, 2015

John W. Walsh
COPD PPRN Principal Investigator
COPD Foundation
3300 Ponce de Leon Blvd
Miami, FL 33134

Dear Mr. Walsh,

I am pleased to write in support of the COPD Foundation's application for the second phase of the COPD Patient-Powered Research Network (COPD PPRN). If awarded, the COPD PPRN will continue to serve as a crucial network within PCORnet facilitating patient-centered research and fostering collaborations among diverse stakeholders engaged in research to optimize health outcomes for people with COPD.

The [Alliance for Aging Research](#) is the leading non-profit organization dedicated to accelerating the pace of scientific discoveries and their application to improve the experience of aging and health. Since 2011, the Alliance for Aging Research has been leading the [Aging in Motion](#) (AIM) Coalition. AIM is comprised of more than 30 patient, caregiver, health and aging groups working together to advance the treatment of sarcopenia. In order to promote innovation in this area, AIM is pursuing recognition of validated endpoints for use in clinical trials, enabling better diagnosis of sarcopenia in the routine practice of medicine, and identifying subpopulations of people with associated conditions whose overall well-being and survival hinges on treatment of their sarcopenia.

Sarcopenia is the progressive loss of skeletal muscle with diminished strength and endurance. It is a leading cause of impaired mobility and functional decline in older people. Prevalence of sarcopenia is high among people with COPD and it increases with age. Some research has shown that those with diagnosed COPD who also suffer from sarcopenia have greater functional impairment and poorer health status than those who are not sarcopenic. We believe that COPD is one condition for which secondary treatment of sarcopenia can improve health outcomes; however, more research is needed to better understand this subset of patients. The COPD PPRN could be an important information source for researchers studying the link between COPD and sarcopenia in the future.

We appreciate the COPD Foundation's vision of how this research network could be leveraged by stakeholders like us and we look forward to collaborating with you during Phase II of the COPD PPRN.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cynthia A. Bens".

Cynthia A. Bens
Executive Director, Aging in Motion
Vice President of Public Policy, Alliance for Aging Research