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Transcript of acceptance remarks at 2017 Woman's Day Red Dress Awards

Contact ORWH at orwhinfo@mail.nih.gov with questions or comment.

Acceptance Remarks:

- Thank you all very much...I'm honored to receive this award from Woman's Day Magazine, a great advocate for women's health.
- In fact, Woman's Day was the first magazine to champion the cause of women's heart health, helping to spread critical information about heart disease when there were few means available to women for distributing health information.
- Woman's Day continues to show its leadership in the area of women's health, and it is wonderful to know that those who manage the publication today recognize the importance of sex as a key biological factor that must be considered at every stage of research—from preclinical to clinical studies and beyond.
- The aim of the NIH policy on sex as a biological variable is for us to understand the health differences between women and men to the fullest extent possible, so that we can optimize treatment for everyone.
- Sex matters in health way beyond reproductive matters. And nowhere is that more true than in heart health.

- But women are still underrepresented in heart research, which is why NIH is ramping up efforts to encourage more women to join clinical trials in disease-specific areas.
- I accept this award on behalf of NIH, its partners and supporters, and most of all, on behalf of all the women who have and continue to take time out of their busy lives to participate in NIH research studies—for without them, we could not do our work.
- Women’s health is the foundation of the nation’s health. And for any structure to stand, it needs the strongest foundation possible.
- For that reason, I call on everyone—whether a woman or not—to take up the cause of women’s health, if nothing more than to help spread the word about important information such as heart disease being the number one killer of women, and to encourage mothers, grandmothers, aunts, wives, sisters, daughters, and friends to not take their own health lightly, and to be persistent when they know something is not right with their body. And of course to encourage more women to participate in research.
- We really need “all hands on deck” to improve women’s health, and thereby to improve the nation’s health.
- Thank you, Woman’s Day, for your exceptional work in women’s health. It is an honor and privilege to accept this award tonight. Thank you.