



Department of Energy
Office of Science
Washington, DC 20585

July 27, 2021

Office of the Director

Professor Daniel A. Reed, Chair of the ASCAC
Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs
Professor of Computer Science and Electrical & Computer Engineering
The University of Utah
201 Presidents Circle, Room 205
Salt Lake City, Utah 84112-9007

Dear Professor Reed:

Thank you for your work as Committee Chair on the Advanced Scientific Computing Advisory Committee (ASCAC) and for the ongoing Committee of Visitors review. The ASCAC recommendations will help us to improve the management of this important program.

The Office of Science and the National Nuclear Security Administration began collaborating with the National Cancer Institute (NCI) in 2016 to dramatically accelerate progress in cancer research through the application of High Performance Computing and Artificial Intelligence. This collaboration, through the Memorandum of Understanding for the Joint Design of Advanced Computing Solutions for Cancer (JDACS4C), has recently been renewed for an additional five-year period. ASCAC generally provides advice and recommendations concerning the Advanced Scientific Computing program in response only to charges from the Director of the Office of Science. However, the Committee's objectives and scope of activities include periodic reviews of elements of the Advanced Scientific Computing Research Program and recommendations based thereon. Considering this, I request the ASCAC form a working group to review the activities under this collaboration and to provide advice to the Office of Science regarding new opportunities that might contribute significantly to these efforts; to identify any major challenges that are preventing the efforts from delivering on their potential; and to provide recommendations for how the Office of Science might address these challenges.

I request the ASCAC establish this working group for the life of the collaboration or until this charge is withdrawn. The working group should report findings through the ASCAC in an open public meeting or videoconference meeting of the ASCAC, as needed, but at least annually, to identify significant opportunities and challenges in a timely manner. The ASCAC Chair will transmit the working group's findings in the form of a letter report to the Director of the Office of Science after the letter report is accepted by the full committee at an open public meeting.

If you or the subcommittee chair have any questions, please contact Christine Chalk, Designated Federal Official for ASCAC at 301-903-5152 or by e-mail at christine.chalk@science.doe.gov.

I appreciate ASCAC's willingness to undertake this important activity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J. Stephen Binkley".

J. Stephen Binkley
Acting Director
Office of Science