



June 1, 2018

Dear PLA Member:

On behalf of the Public Library Association (PLA), I invite you to become a member of the National Network of Libraries of Medicine (NNLM). Membership in your Regional Medical Library is free and provides you with access to training, funding, and materials to keep your library programming strong and keep your community healthy.

With the increasing complexity of health care, reductions in funding for navigators and public health education programs, and the proliferation of "fake news," it's more important than ever that public libraries help meet community needs for quality health information and finding health care services. That's why PLA is partnering with NNLM to bring new resources to public libraries nationwide.

More than 70 percent of Americans believe that libraries can help people seeking health information. Over one-third of library computer users pursue information on health and wellness for learning about medical conditions, finding health care providers, and assessing health insurance options. Most public libraries help patrons locate and evaluate health information and health insurance resources, and many offer fitness and nutrition classes, or bring in health care providers to offer screenings.

We know your work is critical to creating a culture of health in your community. The resources, education, and networking you will receive through your Regional Medical Library will make you stronger and more confident in meeting needs in this challenging area.

I strongly urge your library and your staff to join your Regional Medical Library. Please see the enclosed brochure or visit <https://nnlm.gov/members/join>.

To your good health,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pam Sandlian Smith". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Pam Sandlian Smith
2017–2018 PLA President
Director, Anythink Libraries (Adams County, CO)

P.S. Help PLA show the power of libraries to create healthy communities: share information about your successes and challenges by emailing pla@ala.org and joining our new Health Interest Group in the ALA Connect (connect.ala.org) online community.

For more information about PLA's health initiatives, visit
<http://www.ala.org/pla/initiatives/healthliteracy> and <https://publiclibrary.health/>.