



THE AD HOC GROUP FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

March 26, 2012

The Honorable Dennis Rehberg
Chair
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Harkin
Chair
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Rehberg, Chairman Harkin, Rep. DeLauro, and Senator Shelby:

The 212 undersigned members of the Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research, a coalition of patient and voluntary health groups, medical and scientific societies, academic and research organizations, and industry, write to respectfully request that the National Institutes of Health (NIH) be recognized as a critical national priority and strongly urge the Congress to provide it with at least \$32 billion in funding in the FY 2013 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations bill.

This funding recommendation represents the minimum investment necessary to avoid further loss of promising research and at the same time allows the NIH's budget to keep pace with biomedical inflation. After nearly a decade of budgets below biomedical inflation, NIH's inflation-adjusted funding is close to 20 percent lower today than in FY 2003. Accordingly, NIH's ability to sustain current research capacity and encourage promising new areas of science is significantly limited. Even before adjusting for inflation, enacted spending bills in recent years have imposed cuts on the NIH budget. More distressing, the looming sequestration mandated by the Budget Control Act threatens to continue this trend with further cuts estimated between 8 and 10 percent in FY 2013 alone.

The broad portfolio of research supported by NIH is essential for improving our basic understanding of diseases. The research supported by the agency provides a significant source of new innovations in health care. It is the kind of investment that the private sector cannot undertake alone. Additional cuts to the NIH budget unquestionably will slow the discovery of new technologies and therapeutics and could impede our ability to respond quickly to new health threats. It is imperative that we provide the necessary resources to the nation's researchers to permit them to continue to understand, cure, prevent, and alleviate diseases, including some of this nation's most debilitating and costly conditions.

Several recent studies have concluded that federal support for medical research is a major force in the economic health of communities across the nation. It is critically important that the nation continue to capitalize on previous investments to drive research progress, train the next generation of scientists, create new jobs, promote economic growth, and maintain leadership in the global innovation economy—particularly as other countries increase their investments in scientific research.

Most important, a failure to maintain and strengthen NIH’s ability to support the groundbreaking work of researchers across the country carries a palpable human toll, denying hope to the millions of patients awaiting the possibility of a healthier tomorrow.

The Ad Hoc Group strongly recommends that the FY 2013 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations bill uphold its longstanding legacy of bipartisan support for NIH by providing funding of no less than \$32 billion.

Sincerely,

Academic Pediatric Association
AcademyHealth
Academy of Radiology Research
Albert Einstein College of Medicine of Yeshiva University
Alliance for Academic Internal Medicine (AAIM)
Alliance for Aging Research
Alpha-1 Association
Alpha-1 Foundation
Alzheimer’s Association
American Academy of Neurology
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Association for Cancer Research
American Association for Dental Research
American Association for Laboratory Animal Science
American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases
American Association of Anatomists
American Association of Colleges of Nursing
American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine
American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy
American Association of Immunologists
American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons (AAOMS)
American Brain Coalition
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
American College of Neuropsychopharmacology
American College of Rheumatology
American College of Sports Medicine
American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer
The American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
American Diabetes Association
American Gastroenterological Association
American Heart Association

American Pediatric Society
American Physical Therapy Association (APTA)
American Physiological Society
American Psychiatric Association
American Psychological Association
American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (ASBMB)
American Society for Bone and Mineral Research
The American Society for Cell Biology
American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy
American Society for Microbiology
American Society for Pharmacology & Experimental Therapeutics
American Society for Radiation Oncology
American Society for Reproductive Medicine
American Society of Clinical Oncology
American Society of Hematology
American Society of Human Genetics
The American Society of Nephrology
American Society of Pediatric Nephrology
American Sociological Association
American Thoracic Society
American Tinnitus Association
American Urogynecologic Society
Arizona State University
Arthritis Foundation
Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America
Associated Medical Schools of New York (AMSNY)
Association for Psychological Science
The Association for Research in Vision & Ophthalmology (ARVO)
Association of Academic Health Centers
Association of American Cancer Institutes
Association of American Medical Colleges
Association of American Universities
Association of Independent Research Institutes
Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs
Association of Minority Health Professions Schools
Association of Population Centers
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU)
Baylor College of Medicine
Bladder Cancer Advocacy Network (BCAN)
Biophysical Society
Biotechnology Industry Organization
Brigham and Women's Hospital
Cedars-Sinai Medical Center
Charlene Miers Foundation for Cancer Research
Charles Drew University of Medicine and Science
The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia Research Institute
Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation
City of Hope
Coalition for Health Funding
Coalition for Imaging and Bioengineering Research

Coalition for the Advancement of Health Through Behavioral and Social Sciences Research
(CAHT-BSSR)
Coalition for the Life Sciences
Coalition to Promote Research (CPR)
The College on Problems of Drug Dependence
Columbia University
Consortium of Academic Health Centers for Integrative Medicine
Consortium of Social Science Associations (COSSA)
Cooley's Anemia Foundation
COPD Foundation
Cornell University
Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America
Cystic Fibrosis Foundation
Digestive Disease National Coalition
Duke University School of Medicine
The Endocrine Society
EPSCoR/IDeA Coalition
EPSCoR/IDeA Foundation
FasterCures
Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology
Federation of Associations in Behavioral and Brain Sciences
Fight Colorectal Cancer
FRAXA Research Foundation
Friends of Cancer Research
Friends of the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development
Friends of the National Institute on Aging
Friends of the National Institute on Drug Abuse
GAPPS
Genetics Society of America
The Gerontological Society of America
Harvard University
Health Sciences South Carolina
HIV Medicine Association
Human Factors and Ergonomics Society
Huntington's Disease Society of America (HDSA)
Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA)
Intercultural Cancer Council Caucus
International Foundation for Functional Gastrointestinal Disorders
Interstitial Cystitis Association
JDRF
Jeffrey Modell Foundation
Johns Hopkins University
Joint Advocacy Coalition of the Association for Clinical Research Training, the Association for
Patient-Oriented Research, the Clinical Research Forum, and the Society for Clinical and
Translational Science
Le Bonheur Children's Hospital
The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society
Life Technologies
Lupus Foundation of America
The Lupus Research Institute

March of Dimes
Massachusetts General Hospital
McLean Hospital
Medical College of Wisconsin
Meharry Medical College
Melanoma Research Alliance
Mesothelioma Applied Research Foundation
Michigan State University
Morehouse School of Medicine
The Mount Sinai Medical Center
National AHEC Organization
National Alliance for Eye and Vision Research
National Alliance on Mental Illness
National Association for Biomedical Research
National Brain Tumor Society
National Council for Diversity in the Health Professions
National Fragile X Foundation
The National Infertility Association
National Kidney Foundation
National Marfan Foundation
National Primate Research Centers
National Psoriasis Foundation
National Women's Health Network
NephCure Foundation
The New York Stem Cell Foundation
North American Society for Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition
Northeastern University
NYU Langone Medical Center
The Ohio State University
The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center
One Voice Against Cancer
Oregon Health & Science University
Ovarian Cancer National Alliance
Pancreatic Cancer Action Network
Parent Project Muscular Dystrophy
Parkinson's Action Network (PAN)
Partners HealthCare
Penn Medicine
Penn State College of Medicine
Population Association of America
Prevent Blindness America
Pulmonary Hypertension Association
Research!America
The Research Institute at Nationwide Children's Hospital
Scleroderma Foundation
Sleep Research Society
Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics
Society for Investigative Dermatology
Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine
Society for Neuroscience

Society for Pediatric Research
Society for Women's Health Research
Society of Behavioral Medicine
Society of General Internal Medicine
Society of Gynecologic Oncology
Society of Hospital Medicine
Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital
Spina Bifida Association
Trisomy 18 Foundation
Tufts University
Tulane University
Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine, Nursing, and Allied Health
Unite 2 Fight Paralysis
The United Mitochondrial Disease Foundation
University at Buffalo
University of California System
The University of Chicago Medical Center
University of Cincinnati
University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus
University of Illinois
University of Massachusetts Medical School
University of Michigan Medical School
University of Rochester
University of South Florida-USF Health
University of Texas System
University of Utah Health Sciences
University of Virginia
University of Washington
University of Wisconsin-Madison
US Hereditary Angioedema Association
UTHealth | The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston
Vanderbilt University
Wake Forest School of Medicine
Washington University in St. Louis