The Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research

November 1, 2010

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  The Honorable John Boehner
Speaker  Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives  U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515  Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Harry Reid  The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader  Minority Leader
United States Senate  United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510  Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable David Obey  The Honorable Todd Tiahrt
Chair, Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education  Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education
Committee on Appropriations  Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives  U.S. House of Representatives
Washington DC 20515  Washington, DC 20515

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

Dear Madam Speaker, Leaders, Chairmen and Ranking Members:

The undersigned patient groups, scientific and medical societies, research institutions and industry organizations, which are members of the Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research, thank you for your longstanding leadership on behalf of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). We respectfully urge you to continue that support by finalizing the FY 2011 Labor-Health and Human Services-Education (Labor-HHS) appropriations bill without delay. The proposed $1 billion increase for the NIH will sustain the pace of progress in the fight against many of our most serious diseases, create new scientific opportunities, support high-technology, and result in high-wage jobs in all 50 states.
A long-term, continuing resolution (CR) will slow research progress and squander invaluable scientific opportunities, to the detriment of our nation’s health and our ability to maintain leadership in the global innovation economy. Recent investments have created dramatic new research opportunities in areas ranging from genetics to behavioral research, spurring advancements and precipitating the promise of personalized medicine that will yield far-reaching health and economic benefits. A few examples of opportunities that have the potential to be lost or significantly delayed under a long-term CR include:

- The initiation of 30 new drug trials to find novel therapies for cancer, which claims the lives of 500,000 Americans annually;
- A new initiative to identify biomarkers and drug targets for lung diseases such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disorder, which is the fourth leading cause of death in the U.S., leading to more than 120,000 annual fatalities;
- The development of models to show the interactions between infectious agents and their hosts, disease spread, prediction systems and response strategies. The models will be useful to policymakers, public health workers and other researchers who want to better understand and respond to emerging infectious diseases; and
- Continued work on the development of an “artificial pancreas” through initiatives funding small business research to develop new therapeutics and monitoring technologies, as well as clinical research, an effort which could impact the nearly 24 million Americans struggling with diabetes.

It is critically important that we continue to capitalize on the momentum of previous investments to drive research progress, train the next generation of scientists, create jobs, and promote industry growth. The undersigned organizations strongly support the $1 billion increase proposed by the President and passed by the House and Senate Labor-HHS appropriations subcommittees. We hope that you can help ensure the nation does not lose the health and economic benefits of our extraordinary investments in biomedical research, and that Congress takes the next crucial step towards a course of sustained NIH funding by passing the FY 2011 Labor-HHS appropriations bill. We look forward to working with you to continue to improve the health of the American people through medical research.

Sincerely,

Academic Pediatric Association
Academy of Radiology Research
Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research
AIDS Action Baltimore
AIDS Alliance for Children, Youth & Families
The AIDS Institute
AIDS Treatment Activists Coalition (ATAC)
Alliance for Academic Internal Medicine
Alliance for Aging Research
Alpha-1 Association
Alpha-1 Foundation
Alzheimer's Association
amfAR, the Foundation for AIDS Research
The American Academy of HIV Medicine
American Academy of Neurology
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Association for Cancer Research
American Association for Dental Research
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 Orthopaedic Surgeons
American Brain Coalition
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
American Chemical Society
American College of Radiology
The American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
American Dental Association
American Diabetes Association
American Heart Association
American Lung Association
American Neurological Association
American Osteopathic Association
American Pediatric Society
American Psychiatric Association
American Psychological Association
American Physiological Society
American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
The American Society for Cell Biology
American Society for Microbiology
American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics
American Society of Clinical Oncology
American Society of Hematology
American Society of Human Genetics
American Society of Nephrology
American Society of Neurorehabilitation
American Society of Pediatric Nephrology
American Society of Plant Biologists
American Sociological Association
American Statistical Association
American Thoracic Society
American Tinnitus Association
Arthritis Foundation
Association for Clinical Research Training
Association for Patient-Oriented Research
Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO)
Association of Academic Health Science Libraries
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 (AMSPDC)
Association of Minority Health Professions Schools
Association of Professors of Medicine
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities
Association of Specialty Professors
Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD)
AVAC: Global Advocacy for HIV Prevention
Biophysical Society
BJC HealthCare
Brown University
California Institute of Technology
Cedars-Sinai Medical Center
Charles Drew University of Medicine and Science
The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia
Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation
Cleveland Clinic
Clinical Research Forum
Coalition for Health Services Research
Coalition for Imaging and Bioengineering Research
Coalition for the Advancement of Health Through Behavioral and Social Science Research (CAHT-BSSR)
Coalition for the Life Sciences
Coalition of Heritable Disorders of Connective Tissue
Coalition to Protect Research (CPR)
College on Problems of Drug Dependence
Columbia University
Conference of Boston Teaching Hospitals
COPD Foundation
Consortium of Social Science Associations (COSSA)
Cooley’s Anemia Foundation
Cornell University
Council on Social Work Education
Creighton University
Crohn’s and Colitis Foundation of America
Cystic Fibrosis Foundation
Digestive Disease National Coalition
Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative (DNDi)
Duke University School of Medicine
Dystonia Medical Research Foundation
Emory University
The Endocrine Society
Epilepsy Foundation
FasterCures
Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB)
Federation of Associations in Behavioral & Brain Sciences
Florida Atlantic University
Friends of NIDA
Genetic Alliance
Harvard University
Health Sciences South Carolina
HealthHIV
HIV Medicine Association
Howard University Health Sciences
Indiana University
Infectious Diseases Society of America
International Essential Tremor Foundation
International Foundation for Functional Gastrointestinal Disorders
Interstitial Cystitis Association
Intracranial Hypertension Research Foundation
Jeffrey Modell Foundation
Johns Hopkins University
Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation
Latino Commission on AIDS, New York, NY
Lupus Research Institute
Massachusetts General Hospital
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
March of Dimes Foundation
Mayo Clinic
McLean Hospital
Medical Library Association
Medicines for Malaria Venture
Meharry Medical College
The MetroHealth System
Michigan State University
Morehouse School of Medicine
Mount Sinai Medical Center
National Alliance for Eye and Vision Research (NAEVR)
National Alliance on Mental Illness
National Association of Medical Minority Educators (NAMME)
The National Association of People with AIDS (NAPWA)
National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors (NASADAD)
National Brain Tumor Society
National Endowment for Alzheimer's Research (NEAR)
National Health Council
National Lung Cancer Partnership
National Marfan Foundation
National Osteoporosis Foundation
National Primate Research Centers
National Psoriasis Foundation
Neurofibromatosis MIDWEST
Neurofibromatosis, Inc.
Neurofibromatosis, Inc., Northeast
NephCure Foundation
New York Medical College
The New York Stem Cell Foundation
New York University
Northeastern Ohio Universities Colleges of Medicine and Pharmacy
Northeastern University
NYU Langone Medical Center
The Ohio State University
OhioHealth
OraSure Technologies, Inc
Oregon Health & Science University
Pancreatic Cancer Action Network (PanCAN)
Parkinson's Action Network
Partners HealthCare
Penn Medicine
Penn State College of Medicine
PKD Foundation
Pulmonary Hypertension Association
PXE International
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
Sarcoma Foundation of America
Scleroderma Foundation
Society for Clinical and Translational Science
Society for Investigative Dermatology
Society for Neuroscience
Society for Pediatric Research
Society for Women’s Health Research
Society of Behavioral Medicine
Society of General Internal Medicine
Spaulding Rehabilitation Network
Stanford University
Stony Brook University Medical Center
Syracuse University
Treatment Action Group (TAG)
Tulane University
Unite 2 Fight Paralysis
University of California System
University of California Berkeley
University of California Davis
University of California Irvine
University of California Los Angeles
University of California Merced
University of California Riverside
University of California San Diego
University of California San Francisco
University of California Santa Barbara
University of California Santa Cruz
University of Cincinnati
University of Colorado Denver
University of Houston
University of Illinois
University of Iowa
University of Kansas
University of Michigan Health System
University of Michigan Medical School
University of Minnesota
University of Nebraska Medical Center
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
University of Pennsylvania
University of Pittsburgh
University of Rochester
University of Southern California
University of South Florida-USF Health
University of Texas System
University of Virginia
University of Washington
University of Wisconsin-Madison
U.S. Hereditary Angioedema Association
Vanderbilt University
Washington University in St. Louis
Weill Cornell Medical College