



THE AD HOC GROUP FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

For Immediate Release
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Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research Statement on Continuation of NIH Director

January 15, 2021 – *The Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research issued the following statement in response to President-elect Biden's announcement that Francis Collins, MD, PhD, will continue his appointment as director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in the Biden-Harris administration.*

“The Ad Hoc Group applauds President-elect Biden’s decision to continue the appointment of Francis Collins, MD, PhD as the director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Since his initial appointment in 2009, Dr. Collins has been an ardent advocate for biomedical research and continues to inspire young scientists to pursue a career in research.

Collins has played an integral role in the nation’s COVID-19 response through efforts to operationalize cross-agency collaborations to develop vaccines, therapeutics, and testing strategies for the novel coronavirus. Also launched under his leadership, efforts like the *All of Us* Research Program and Brain Research through Advancing Innovative Neurotechnologies (BRAIN) Initiative will further the United States’ standing as a global leader in science and innovation. These efforts add to the greater mission of the NIH, which strives to enhance health, lengthen life, and reduce illness and disability.

Included in today’s announcement was the nomination of Eric Lander, PhD to serve as director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, and who would be the first life scientist to serve in this role. We look forward to continuing to work with President-elect Biden’s strong science team to help combat the ongoing pandemic and further advance medical research that leads to life-changing treatments and cures for millions of Americans.”

The Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research is a coalition of more than 330 patient and voluntary health groups, medical and scientific societies, academic and research organizations, and industry. The Ad Hoc Group has one mission: to enhance the federal investment in biomedical, behavioral, social, and population-based research by increasing the funding for the National Institutes of Health.