



## THE AD HOC GROUP FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

**For Immediate Release**  
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### **Ad Hoc Group Statement on RISE Act Introduction and Research Relief**

**February 5, 2021** – *The Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research issued the following statement in response to the RISE Act introduction and to urge Congress to provide necessary pandemic relief for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in the next COVID-19 emergency funding package:*

“The Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research thanks bipartisan members of the House and Senate for introducing the Research Investment to Spark the Economy (RISE) Act to support the research enterprise in rebuilding from the effects of the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. This important legislation would authorize \$25 billion in emergency relief funds for federal science agencies, including \$10 billion for the NIH. We urge lawmakers to act quickly to provide this support.

Decades of investments in the NIH allowed the science community to respond rapidly to SARS-CoV-2, including two safe and effective vaccines identified, authorized, and deployed less than a year after the threat first emerged. At the same time, however, the pandemic has imposed major challenges for the nation’s research enterprise, including early-career scientists, women, and individuals with caretaker responsibilities – challenges that ultimately will result in delayed or deferred progress on issues that affect people everywhere. Emergency funding for the NIH is necessary to sustain momentum for scientific and medical advances related to the ongoing pandemic, and to preserve previous investments to address the many existing health threats facing patients on a daily basis.

The Ad Hoc Group is grateful for the emergency support Congress has provided the NIH to date for new COVID-19-related efforts, and we appreciate that lawmakers have proposed up to \$15.5 billion in other past COVID-19 supplemental legislation for both research relief and new COVID-19 efforts. As Congress considers new rescue and recovery support, \$10 billion for the NIH as proposed in the RISE Act would be an important down-payment toward reversing some of the damage the pandemic has done to non-COVID-19 research activities. Preserving the federal commitment to research will work to improve health, enhance the nation’s resilience, bolster our nation’s global competitiveness, reinforce the research workforce, and combat the local and regional economic challenges our country is facing during this unprecedented time.

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*The Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research is a coalition of nearly 400 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.*