



THE AD HOC GROUP FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

February 11, 2009

The Honorable David Obey
Chair, Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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

The Honorable Henry Waxman
Chair, Committee on Energy & Commerce
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Daniel Inouye
Chair, Committee on
Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Rangel
Chair, Committee on Ways & Means
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Max Baucus
Chair, Committee on Finance
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jerry Lewis
Ranking Member, Committee on
Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Ranking Member, Committee on
Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Dave Camp
Ranking Member, Committee on
Ways and Means
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Grassley
Ranking Member, Committee on
Finance
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Conferees:

As the House and Senate conference committee considers the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (H.R. 1), the Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research, which represents nearly 300 patient groups, scientific and medical societies, research institutions, and industry organizations, urges you to include \$10 billion for the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Bold and visionary NIH funding in H.R. 1 would create and save jobs now

while benefiting our nation's long term health and competitiveness. It would serve as a critical down payment toward achieving President Obama's goals and will help to restore the world's pre-eminent medical research enterprise in key areas.

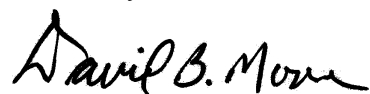
Specifically, additional funds invested in NIH through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act will immediately create new jobs and prevent job losses for researchers, technicians, and thousands of others who provide equipment, supplies, and services to laboratories. According to a Families USA study, in FY 2007, every \$1 million that the public invested in NIH generated \$2.21 million in new business activity across the nation.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act should be the first step in making the investments for the coming decade that must be made to restore our economy and to maintain our position in an increasingly competitive global economy. President Obama has committed to increase federal support for research, technology and innovation so that America can lead the world in creating new advanced jobs and products. The inclusion of funding for NIH in the economic recovery package would sustain and reinvigorate the enterprise, emphasize improving and renewing current capacity after years of stagnation, and serve as a foundation for recurring research breakthroughs in the coming years.

It is absolutely essential that this important capacity building effort be the first step in a long-term national commitment to stabilize medical research funding. The experience of the past two decades demonstrates the problems caused by cyclical periods of rapid funding growth followed by periods of stagnation. If we are to achieve the full promise of medical research to transform health and improve the quality of life for all Americans, we need robust budget growth for NIH that is sustainable and predictable. We urge the conferees to give NIH the flexibility to manage these additional funds in a manner that complements the existing research portfolio and permits NIH to maximize the scientific and economic return on this investment.

The partnership between NIH and America's universities, medical schools, teaching hospitals, and research institutions continues to serve as the driving force in this nation's search for ever-greater understanding of the mechanisms of human health and disease, from which arise new diagnostics, treatments, and cures, and better ways to improve the health and quality of life for all Americans. These advances also contribute to the nation's economic strength by creating skilled, high-paying jobs; new products and industries; and improved technologies. We strongly urge Congress to provide \$10 billion for NIH in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David B. Moore". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

David B. Moore
Executive Director

cc: The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
The Honorable Steny Hoyer
The Honorable John Boehner
The Honorable Dick Durbin
The Honorable Mitch McConnell
The Honorable Tom Harkin
The Honorable Arlen Specter