

## **Summary of Ad Hoc Group Town Hall Meeting February 25, 2010**

Ad Hoc Group Executive Director Dave Moore welcomed the group and described how the coalition arrived at its recommendation of \$35 billion for NIH in FY 2011. The Ad Hoc Group's "numbers" subcommittee – which included members of the Ad Hoc Group steering committee, as well as volunteers from the full membership – met several times and presented its recommendation to the steering committee. After soliciting input from the full membership through town hall meetings, the steering committee agreed on \$35 billion, and issued a Feb. 1 statement with its recommendation.

Mona Miller, Society for Neuroscience, led a discussion on messaging strategy to communicate the Ad Hoc Group recommendation to the Hill. Attendees discussed the suggested messaging points (on the following page) and groups were encouraged to tailor the messages and present them in concert with their specific priorities.

Paul Smedberg, American Society of Nephrology, encouraged the group to share advocacy activities that are in the works. Attendees reported on:

- Coordinated efforts to reach out to the House and Senate budget committees in support of a healthy allocation for Function 550;
- Planned advocacy days in February and March that allow researchers to interact with Congressional staff;
- Efforts to incorporate messaging in letters to the editor, opinion/editorials, and other publications;
- Efforts to compile vignettes, fact sheets, letters, and other materials on the impact of Recovery Act funding; and
- Web resources, reports, and other materials available to the public.

Jennifer Zeitzer, FASEB, provided an update on the Ad Hoc Group's upcoming Congressional briefing featuring NIGMS Director Jeremy Berg (Friday, March 5, at 12 p.m. in Rayburn B-339). She also encouraged the group to contact her or other steering committee members with ideas for future briefings. Attendees suggested an "NIH 101" briefing and coordinating a visit to the NIH campus for appropriations staff, among other ideas.

Dave thanked the groups that signed on to the Coalition for Health Funding letter to House and Senate Budget Committee members urging \$67.1 billion for Function 550 in FY 2011 (the coalition's recommendation incorporates the Ad Hoc Group request of \$35 billion for NIH). He also provided an update about the ResearchMeansHope.org campaign, including Congressional champion building, the use of social media networks like Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube, and other projects on the horizon.

**Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research  
FY11 Talking Points**

**Sustain The Momentum For Medical Research:  
Support \$35B for NIH**

- **Hundreds of organizations dedicated to medical research are united in urging Congress to provide \$35B for the National Institutes of Health in FY11, sustaining America's enhanced medical research capacity.** This level represents the new functional capacity funded by annual appropriations and the historic American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.
- **Strong, sustained NIH funding is essential to national priorities of better health and economic revitalization.** This includes the creation of high-wage jobs that will be essential to future discovery. Sustained increases in funding are also essential to train the next generation of scientists and prepare them to make tomorrow's health discoveries. To date, ARRA funding has provided grants to nearly 1,900 new investigators.
- Right now:
  - **NIH research is offering hope for patients:** Potentially revolutionary new avenues of research hold promise for new early screenings and new treatments for disease.
    - Examples from individual patient organizations, scientific societies, etc.
  - **NIH research is playing a key economic role in communities nationwide:** NIH investment contributes to local economic revitalization by funding and creating jobs at local universities, small businesses, and research institutions in communities across the U.S.
  - **NIH research is supporting long-term competitiveness:** Strong R&D investment remains vital to the nation's long-term global competitiveness. NIH funding forms one of the key foundations for innovation and industries like biotechnology, medical device and pharmaceutical development, and more.
- **Congress should ensure the nation does not shelve or delay vital medical research progress or dismantle labs at a crucial time for research and the economy.**

***Sustain the momentum for medical research!***