



THE AD HOC GROUP FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

For Immediate Release
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Ad Hoc Group Statement on FY 2023 Funding for the National Institutes of Health

March 30, 2022 – *The Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research issued the following statement regarding funding for the National Institutes of Health in fiscal year (FY 2023) and responding to the proposed funding in the president’s budget request released March 28:*

“The Ad Hoc Group appreciates the president’s request for an increase in funding for medical research. We are concerned, however, that the bold proposal for the nascent Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H) comes at the expense of NIH’s annual base budget, which ultimately would undermine the success of both entities. The proposal for the NIH base budget falls well short of need and scientific opportunity at the expense of patients today and tomorrow, the future medical research workforce, U.S. competitiveness, and the very goals ARPA-H is envisioned to advance.

Robust growth in the foundational research that the NIH supports in labs nationwide is key to achieving ARPA-H’s objective of leveraging this research to push the boundaries of translational research and development. For example, the swift delivery of safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines was made possible by over a decade of incremental discovery spanning basic and clinical research supported by NIH funding. To replicate this success in other areas, we must ensure that we continue to expand the NIH’s capacity to support fundamental science.

Therefore, in FY 2023, the coalition urges lawmakers to ensure **no less than \$49 billion for the NIH’s base program level, and that any additional funds for ARPA-H supplement, rather than supplant, this core investment in NIH.** Additionally, we fully support the president’s proposed use of mandatory funding as a supplement to NIH’s base program level to speed the pace of pandemic response and readiness. COVID-19 continues, and the next pandemic could arise at any time. Heightened research and development by both the public and private sector can save millions of lives and trillions of dollars in the future.

We look forward to working with the administration and Congress to ensure the NIH is equipped with the resources it needs to continue making progress against existing health challenges and safeguarding the nation against emerging threats.”

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.