



THE AD HOC GROUP FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

For Immediate Release
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Ad Hoc Group Statement on President's FY 2026 Budget Proposal

May 2, 2025 – *The Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research issued the following statement in response to the proposed \$27 billion funding level for the National Institutes of Health in the President's fiscal year (FY) 2026 budget request released May 2:*

The FY 2026 President's budget request for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) would erase decades of progress in enhancing federal support for medical research that improves patient health and well-being and saves lives. The President's proposal to decimate funding for NIH by nearly \$18 billion, would undermine progress on innovative research to develop treatments and cures for patients nationwide, further diminish our narrowing global leadership in biomedical research, and eliminate opportunities for top talent to pursue careers in making the next groundbreaking research discoveries.

For decades, bipartisan majorities in Congress have recognized the importance of federally-supported investments in medical research, allowing NIH to support science that leads to healthier patients, robust economic returns, and a more competitive nation. Now is not the time to retreat, and our community of patient advocates, researchers, clinicians and other stakeholders urges Congress to support crucial growth for NIH in FY 2026 and reject the proposed inadequate funding levels. In FY 2026, more than 500 organizations and institutions in the Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research recommend a funding level of at least \$51.3 billion for NIH.

In addition, we urge Congress to exercise its oversight role in ensuring that NIH can expend its appropriation on the full scope of promising, meritorious research proposals approved through the peer review process without disruption, delay, or other interference. While our community acknowledges opportunities to optimize NIH, the consensus across the wide array of perspectives is that any reforms to the agency should be rooted in the fundamental principle of strengthening, rather than destabilizing, the nation's medical research enterprise. While there may be worthwhile changes to consider implementing at the agency, there are no voices advocating for fewer cures or slower progress toward discovery and improved health. Consequently, decisionmakers should refrain from imposing restrictions that have not been assessed for their potential to undermine the system or informed by the full range of affected stakeholders.

We must recommit and jumpstart the forward momentum for NIH that Congress has driven in recent years. For the United States to enhance our pursuit of cures, renew our global leadership in science and technology, and strengthen our national security, our federal investment in medical research must reflect meaningful, reliable funding increases above inflation within the

base NIH budget. The Ad Hoc Group looks forward to continuing to work with lawmakers to realize this vision and to ensure better health for patients in FY 2026 and beyond.

The Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research is a coalition of over 500 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.