



THE AD HOC GROUP FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

For Immediate Release
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White House Budget Proposal Threatens Hope for Patients Seeking Tomorrow's Cures 300 Organizations Call for An Increase of \$2 Billion in New Research Funding in FY 2018

May 23, 2017 – *The Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research issued the following statement in response to the president's (FY) 2018 budget proposal released today.*

Medical research provides hope for millions of patients who suffer from serious illnesses. Yet, the Administration's proposal to cut investments in the National Institutes of Health (NIH) by \$7.2 billion or 21 percent below current levels would jeopardize the promise to those who rely on research for treatments and cures. Proposed cuts to medical research funding of this magnitude would risk the future of tomorrow's medical breakthroughs, erode America's leadership in science and innovation, and stall one of the nation's most important economic engines.

The work NIH supports in labs across the country promotes longer, fuller lives for people with life-threatening diseases. The federal government's commitment to scientific discovery has not only made our nation the unquestionable leader in medical research, but also a trailblazer in the biomedical research enterprise. Among other major outcomes, NIH research has led to a 70 percent reduction in the death rates for coronary heart disease and stroke, a 40 percent decline in infant mortality over the past 20 years, and a 30 percent decrease in chronic disability among seniors. The return on investment in the NIH pays a lifetime of dividends in better health and quality of life for all Americans. That is why the investment in NIH has historically enjoyed broad, longstanding bipartisan support.

Rather than undermine our investment in this national treasure, 300 organizations representing patient and voluntary health groups, medical and scientific societies, academic and research organizations, and industry, recommend that Congress strengthen its commitment to medical research with an increase of at least \$2 billion for NIH in FY 2018.

The Ad Hoc Group thanks Congress for recent investments in NIH through the FY 2016 and FY 2017 budgets and the 21st Century Cures Act. We look forward to working with lawmakers on an FY 2018 spending package that continues to advance progress in medical research. If the United States is to continue to accelerate the development of life-changing cures, pioneering treatments, and innovative prevention strategies, it is essential to ensure strong, predictable funding increases across the full spectrum of NIH-supported research.

The Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research is a coalition of 300 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.