



THE AD HOC GROUP FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

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For Immediate Release

More Than 200 Organizations Sign Letter Supporting \$34.1 Billion for NIH by the End of the Calendar Year

Washington, D.C., September 7, 2016—More than 200 patient groups, medical and scientific societies, academic institutions, and research organizations signed a [letter](#) coordinated by the Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research expressing the importance of enacting a final FY 2017 funding package with \$34.1 billion for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) by the end of the calendar year. The letter, which praises appropriators' efforts to champion sustained, real growth in medical research funding, was delivered to House and Senate Appropriations leaders and shared with congressional leadership.

The group also cautioned that maintaining current funding levels into the next Congress will have serious consequences.

“Our organizations strongly support an approach to the final FY 2017 spending package that maximizes the federal support for NIH and avoids a long-term continuing resolution (CR). Aside from the budget implications, a long-term CR would create inefficiencies and add uncertainty to a system that is already under stress. We strongly urge lawmakers to make finalizing the FY 2017 appropriations a priority,” the letter says.

Despite a welcome increase in NIH funding in FY 2016, a combination of nominal increases and cuts over the last decade has resulted in a 22 percent decline in the agency's purchasing power, which could lead to delays in promising research or discourage young scientists from entering the field. Continuing the momentum of the FY 2016 investment with \$34.1 billion for NIH in FY 2017 and finalizing a spending package by the end of the calendar year will be essential to ensure stability in the nation's research capacity and accelerate scientific opportunities to improve health.

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The Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research is a coalition of more than 200 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.