



THE AD HOC GROUP FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

For Immediate Release
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Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research Statement on NIH Director Decision to Step Down

October 5, 2021 – *The Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research issued the following statement in response to the announcement today that Francis Collins, M.D., Ph.D., will step down as director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and return to his lab at the NIH's National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI) by the end of the year.*

The Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research congratulates Dr. Collins for over a decade of successful leadership of the NIH and his decades of ongoing public service, the legacy of which will endure long after he steps down as NIH director at the end of the year.

Both as a result of Dr. Collins' own research over the course of his career and his visionary leadership at the helm of the NIH, the promise of better health for hundreds of millions of people is a reality. From his seminal work overseeing the project to map the human genome to NIH's role in driving groundbreaking and interdisciplinary research on pressing public health issues, including COVID-19, the opioid epidemic, cancer, Alzheimer's disease, and countless other conditions, his leadership has changed the trajectory of medicine and history toward a future where science can better conquer illness and disease.

In addition to his unimpeachable scientific credentials, Dr. Collins' tenure as NIH director will be celebrated for his tireless commitment to support the next generation of scientists, promote a diverse and inclusive workforce, and inspire bright minds to pursue careers in medical research. His ability to communicate with ease both with scientific experts and the general public has been instrumental in making NIH's work more accessible to laypeople and in driving enthusiasm for the potential that the federal investment in medical research holds. This unique combination of scientific acumen, integrity, leadership, and communication has earned him deep, bipartisan respect among Members of Congress, the scientific community, and people around the globe.

Among the hallmarks of Dr. Collins' time as director of NIH has been assembling a talented team of institute and center directors at the agency. Our community wishes Dr. Collins well in his next chapter as he builds on his strong, game-changing legacy.

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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.