



## THE AD HOC GROUP FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

October 8, 2018

The Honorable Richard Shelby  
Chair  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate

The Honorable Patrick Leahy  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate

The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen  
Chair  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Nita Lowey  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States House of Representatives

Dear Chairmen Shelby and Frelinghuysen, and Ranking Members Leahy and Lowey:

On behalf of the Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research, thank you for your efforts to invest in medical research and to complete the fiscal year (FY) 2019 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (Labor-HHS) appropriations bill (H.R. 6157) before the start of the fiscal year. The spending bill's \$2 billion increase for medical research through the National Institutes of Health (NIH) translates to real hope and opportunity for every patient awaiting a cure, every researcher working toward the next breakthrough, and every aspiring scientist considering a career in the lab.

The Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research is a coalition of over 300 patient and voluntary health groups, medical and scientific societies, academic and research organizations, and industry, dedicated to enhancing the federal investment in biomedical, behavioral, social, and population-based research supported by the NIH.

We continue to be extremely thankful for Congress's ongoing commitment to NIH funding increases, and we recognize that a major catalyst for the strong investments in NIH was passage of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 that brought discretionary spending relief for non-defense programs. Thanks to your leadership, NIH continues to be recognized as a key national priority, and, as a result of the funding growth in recent years, NIH has started to regain ground from previously declining purchasing power. We know that the greatest medical breakthroughs build upon previous discoveries through continued, steady and robust support for research, and your work has laid the foundation for continued medical progress. This renewed commitment to medical research has energized aspiring scientists and revitalized hope among patients seeking a healthier tomorrow.

In addition to your steadfast support for a meaningful investment in medical research, we also wish to express our gratitude for your efforts to complete the spending bill in a timely and

bipartisan manner. Enacting the bill prior to the start of the new fiscal year has positioned NIH to be even more strategic in its funding decisions and avoid the uncertainty and inefficiencies associated with the funding delays of past years.

Thank you again for your continued leadership and support for biomedical research, and the hope it provides to patients across the country.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tannaz Rasouli". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Tannaz" and last name "Rasouli" clearly distinguishable.

Tannaz Rasouli  
Executive Director  
The Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research