



THE AD HOC GROUP FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

For Immediate Release:

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AD HOC GROUP CALLS FOR ROBUST GROWTH IN NIH BUDGET TO SUSTAIN SCIENTIFIC, ECONOMIC MOMENTUM

Washington, D.C., October 21, 2009 – The Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research thanks President Obama, the Congress, and the American people for the bold and visionary commitment to medical research through the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

The funds invested in NIH are creating and preserving jobs for researchers, technicians, and thousands of others who provide equipment, supplies, and services to laboratories. This funding also is reinvigorating the nation's medical research enterprise after years in which NIH's budget lost ground to inflation, and it will serve as a foundation for recurring research breakthroughs in the coming years. These advances will contribute to the nation's long-term economic strength by creating new products and industries and improved technologies.

We believe that the Recovery Act funding for medical research is a necessary first step in the overall strategy to revitalize our nation's economy. It is absolutely essential, however, that this scientific and economic momentum be sustained by a long-term national commitment to stabilize medical research funding. The experience of the past two decades demonstrates the problems caused by cyclical periods of rapid funding growth followed by periods of stagnation. If we are to achieve the full promise of medical research to transform health and improve the quality of life for all Americans, we need robust budget growth for NIH that is sustainable and predictable.

The partnership between NIH and America's universities, medical schools, teaching hospitals, and research institutions is the driving force in this nation's search for an ever-greater understanding of the mechanisms of human health and disease, which yields new diagnostics, treatments, cures, and better ways to improve the health and quality of life for all Americans.

To ensure the nation is able to leverage the tremendous recent investments in medical research and to make possible a brighter future through discovery, new health applications, and economic growth, we call on President Obama to make increased funding for medical research through the National Institutes of Health a major priority in his FY 2011 budget.

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The Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research is a coalition of more than 300 patient and voluntary health groups, medical and scientific societies, academic and research organizations, and industry.