

## Summary of Ad Hoc Group Town Hall Meeting December 8, 2009

### Discussion on FY 2011 Funding Recommendation

Dave Moore welcomed the group and described the agenda for the meeting. He emphasized that the purpose of the town hall was not to finalize an FY 2011 funding recommendation, but rather to get feedback from the broader NIH advocacy community on discussions that the Ad Hoc “numbers” subcommittee has had over the last several months.

Howard Garrison, who led the subcommittee, reported that the group used suggestions from the Sept. 18 Ad Hoc Group town hall meeting as a starting point. The subcommittee – which included members of the Ad Hoc Group steering committee, as well as volunteers from the full membership – met via conference call over the next few months to discuss funding for NIH in FY 2011. Howard indicated that the subcommittee’s recommendation appears to be consistent with models that others have proposed to sustain NIH’s current research capacity. He also noted that the group was tasked with assessing the stakeholder community’s funding needs, and that the subcommittee’s work ultimately will need to be merged with work of the “messaging” subcommittee.

Themes from the ensuing discussion:

- Should the community craft its recommendation to acknowledge both the larger budget context as well as research funding needs necessary for scientific progress?
- How can the community help ensure that the President’s and Congress’s continued rhetoric in support of advancing science is reflected in NIH’s FY 2011 budget?
- What is the simplest, most compelling way to account for Recovery Act funding?
- How will the community frame its recommendation to highlight the scientific opportunity spurred by ARRA funding?

### Discussion on FY 2011 Messaging

Mona Miller and Jon Retzlaff updated the group on work of the Ad Hoc Group’s “messaging” subcommittee, which has helped refine the draft messaging document circulated at the Sept. 18 town hall meeting. Key themes continue to be to sustain the scientific/health and long term economic momentum generated by the Recovery Act. The messaging document served as the basis for the Ad Hoc Group’s Nov. 23 letter to the administration (<http://www.aamc.org/research/adhocgp/112309.pdf>). Other themes from the discussion:

- Discussions should focus on making the expanded *capacity* permanent (as opposed to the “base,” which connotes a budget context). Similarly, such action will enhance the *scientific capacity of the country*, not just NIH, since most of the NIH budget is invested in universities and research institutions across the country.
- The stakeholder community should work to convey the *scientific opportunity* that can be gained – or remain untapped – as a result of funding decisions.
- Messaging at the local level – including economic impact of NIH funding – is as important as inside-the-beltway.