



## **THE AD HOC GROUP FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH**

For immediate release

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### **Ad Hoc Group Urges Passage of Bipartisan Budget Agreement**

December 12, 2013 – The Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research supports the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013 and urges the House and Senate to pass this measure. This bipartisan compromise, negotiated by House Budget Committee Chair Paul Ryan and Senate Budget Committee Chair Patty Murray, represents an important first step in restoring order to the federal budget process and provides much needed time for appropriators to complete their work on the FY 2014 spending bills. More importantly, this compromise would give appropriators the ability to restore the harmful sequestration cuts to medical research supported by the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

The measure provides much needed certainty for FYs 2014 and 2015 and paves the way to break the current cycle of continuing resolutions, with their incumbent uncertainty about when budgets will be finalized and at what level. Medical research is a long-term endeavor. The failure to pass the appropriations bills in a timely manner imposes unnecessary hardships and inefficiencies on NIH, institutions, and scientists in planning and conducting research.

While this agreement is a welcome first step, our nation's budget problems are far from solved, and the Ad Hoc Group urges the Congress and the Administration to continue to work toward a long-term, balanced approach to deficit reduction that permits increased investments in medical research.

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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. The Ad Hoc Group has one mission: to enhance the federal investment in biomedical, behavioral, and population-based research by increasing the funding for the National Institutes of Health.