

December 16, 2008

Dear President-elect Obama:

Investment in scientific discovery is crucial to improve the nation's health and economy in both the near- and long-term. The Ad-Hoc Group for Medical Research, the oldest coalition advocating for medical research, thanks you for your strong support for science and research and for your commitment to double funding for key science agencies, including the National Institutes of Health (NIH) over the next ten years.

Because you understand the crucial role the life sciences play in the economic and physical health of the nation, we urge you to:

- **Include at least \$1.2 billion in NIH funding in any immediate economic-stimulus effort, and include this funding in the base for subsequent budget years; and**
- **Appoint a permanent NIH director who understands the complexity and breadth of NIH's mission and who can help deploy scientific research investments wisely for maximum economic and health benefit.**

Looking ahead, **we will stand with you to help make your pledge to double the NIH a reality.** Our nearly 300 patient groups, scientific and medical societies, research institutions, and industry organizations are keenly aware that six years of stagnant funding that has decreased purchasing power by nearly 15 percent, limiting critical breakthroughs that can advance the health of our citizens. Funding increases will provide an immediate infusion into the nation's proven and highly competitive biomedical research infrastructure, creating and preserving jobs and high-wage industries while finding new treatments and even cures for many devastating diseases.

**The nation invests less than \$100 per person annually for all the research conducted and supported by NIH. Yet the return on investment has been spectacular:** life expectancy has increased, deaths from heart disease, cancer and stroke are declining, and new treatments have virtually eliminated transmission of HIV virus from mother to child.

**Research contributes to the economic strength of the nation by creating skilled jobs in communities nationwide, new products, and improved technologies.** The nation's medical schools, teaching hospitals, universities, and research institutes where much of this research takes place are among the largest employers in their respective communities. According to a June 2008 Families USA study of FY2007 federal NIH investment:

- **Every dollar of NIH funding generated more than twice as much in state economic output:** an overall investment of \$22.846 billion from NIH generated a total of \$50.537 billion in new state business.

- **NIH grants and contracts created and supported more than 350,000 jobs that generated wages in excess of \$18 billion in the 50 states.** The average wage associated with the jobs created was \$52,000.

The recent history of the NIH budget has hindered scientific discovery and is limiting the capacity of a key engine for today's innovation-based economy. Additional funding in the stimulus package and rapid selection of an NIH director would be crucial first steps to returning the NIH to a course for even greater discovery. These investments would give patients, their families and researchers renewed hope for the future, and can help ensure the future of America's medical research enterprise and leadership.

Sincerely,

Academic Pediatric Association  
ACT-UP Philadelphia  
AIDS Action Baltimore  
AIDS Action Council  
AIDS Community Research Initiative of America (ACRIA)  
The AIDS Institute  
Alliance for Academic Internal Medicine  
Alliance for Aging Research  
Alzheimer's Association  
American Academy of Dermatology Association  
American Academy of Neurology Professional Association  
American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons  
American Academy of Pediatrics  
American Association for Dental Research  
American Association for Geriatric Psychiatry  
American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases  
The American Association of Anatomists  
American Association of Colleges of Nursing  
American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy  
The American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine  
American Association of Immunologists  
The American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS)  
American Association of Sexuality Educators, Counselors, and Therapists (AASECT)  
The American Brain Coalition  
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network  
The American College of Clinical Pharmacology  
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG)  
American College of Preventive Medicine  
American College of Radiology  
The American Diabetes Association  
The American Epilepsy Society  
American Gastroenterological Association  
American Heart Association

The American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering (AIMBE)  
The American Kidney Fund  
American Liver Foundation  
American Lung Association  
American Osteopathic Association  
American Pediatric Society  
The American Physiological Society  
American Psychiatric Association  
American Psychological Association  
American Society for Bone and Mineral Research  
The American Society for Microbiology  
American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics  
American Society for Reproductive Medicine  
American Society for Cell Biology  
American Society of Clinical Oncology  
American Society of Hematology  
The American Society of Human Genetics  
American Society of Nephrology  
American Society of Pediatric Nephrology  
American Society of Transplantation  
American Sociological Association  
American Thoracic Society  
American Tinnitus Association  
Americans for Medical Progress  
Arthritis Foundation  
Arizona State University  
Association for Behavioral & Cognitive Therapies  
Association for Clinical Research Training  
Association for Psychological Science  
The Association for Research in Otolaryngology  
The Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO)  
Association of Academic Health Centers  
Association of Academic Health Sciences Libraries  
The Association of American Cancer Institutes (AACI)  
Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC)  
Association of American Universities  
Association of Independent Research Institutes  
Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs  
Association of Professors of Medicine  
Association of Schools of Public Health  
Association of Specialty Professors  
Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD)  
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric & Neonatal Nurses (AWHONN)  
Autism Speaks  
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center  
Biophysical Society

Biotechnology Industry Organization  
Brainmapping  
Brigham and Women's Hospital  
Brown University  
Cedars Sinai Medical center  
The Center on Aging at NORC  
Child Neurology Society (CNS)  
The Children's Cause for Cancer Advocacy  
The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia  
Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation  
Coalition for Health Services Research  
Coalition for the Advancement of Health Through Behavioral and Social Sciences  
Research  
Coalition of Urban Serving Universities  
Coalition to Protect Research  
College on Problems of Drug Dependence  
Columbia University Medical Center  
Community HIV/AIDS Mobilization Project (CHAMP)  
Conference of Boston Teaching Hospitals  
Congenital Adrenal Hyperplasia Research Education and Support (CARES) Foundation, Inc.  
The Congress of Neurological Surgeons (CNS)  
Consortium of Social Science Associations  
Cooley's Anemia Foundation  
Cystic Fibrosis Foundation  
Digestive Disease National Coalition  
Duke University Medical Center  
Dystonia Medical Research Foundation  
Easter Seals  
Emory University  
The Endocrine Society  
Elsevier Inc.  
Epilepsy Foundation  
Families USA  
FasterCures  
Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB)  
Federation of Behavioral, Psychological, and Cognitive Sciences  
Fletcher Allen Health Care  
Foundation for Integrative AIDS Research (FIAR)  
Harvard University  
Healthcare Association of New York State  
Heart Rhythm Society  
Hepatitis B Foundation  
Hepatitis Foundation International  
Indiana University  
The Institute for the Advancement of Social Work Research (IASWR)  
International Foundation for Functional Gastrointestinal Disorders

Jeffrey Modell Foundation  
Johns Hopkins Institutions  
Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation  
The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center  
Lupus Research Institute  
March of Dimes Foundation  
Massachusetts General Hospital  
Mayo Clinic  
Medical College of Wisconsin  
Medical Library Association  
Michigan State University  
National Alliance for Eye and Vision Research  
National Alliance on Mental Illness  
National Association for Biomedical Research  
National Association of Local Boards of Health (NALBOH)  
National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors  
National Association of State Head Injury Administrators  
National Ataxia Foundation  
National Caucus of Basic Biomedical Science Chairs  
National Coalition for Osteoporosis and Related Bone Diseases  
National Health Council  
National Kidney Foundation  
National Marfan Foundation  
National Multiple Sclerosis Society  
National Organization for Rare Disorders (NORD)  
National Osteoporosis Foundation  
The National Primate Research Centers  
National Sleep Foundation  
Neurofibromatosis, Inc., Northeast  
New York Stem Cell Foundation  
The NYU School of Medicine  
North American Brain Tumor Coalition (NABTC)  
North American Society for Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition  
Northeastern Ohio Universities Colleges of Medicine and Pharmacy  
Northwestern University  
Oregon Health & Science University  
Osteogenesis Imperfecta Foundation  
The Paget Foundation  
The Parkinson's Action Network  
The Parkinson's Disease Foundation  
Partners HealthCare  
Penn State College of Medicine  
Population Association of America and Association of Population Centers  
Pulmonary Hypertension Association  
Rett Syndrome Research Trust  
Saint Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center

Sbarro Health Research Organization  
Scleroderma Foundation  
Scott & White Healthcare  
The Semel Institute for Neuroscience and Human Behavior (UCLA)  
Sjögren's Syndrome Foundation  
Society for Pediatric Research  
The Society for Prevention Research  
Society for Maternal Fetal Medicine  
Society for Neuroscience  
Society for Research in Child Development  
The Society for Women's Health Research  
Society of Behavioral Medicine (SBM)  
Society of General Internal Medicine  
Society of Gynecologic Oncologists  
Society of Hospital Medicine  
Stony Brook University  
Treatment Action Group  
University at Buffalo  
University of California Los Angeles  
University of Central Florida  
University of Kansas Medical Center  
The University of Chicago  
University of Michigan  
University of Michigan Health Systems  
University of Minnesota  
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine  
The University of Texas System  
University of Utah School of Medicine  
University of Wisconsin-Madison  
Vanderbilt University Medical Center  
Virginia Commonwealth University Medical Center  
Wake Forest University Health Sciences  
Washington University in St Louis