



Association of
American Medical Colleges
655 K Street, N.W., Suite 100, Washington, D.C. 20001-2399
T 202 828 0400
www.aamc.org

June 5, 2015

The Honorable Fred Upton
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Diana DeGette
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations
Committee on Energy and Commerce
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Upton and Ranking Member DeGette:

The Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) is pleased to support the 21st Century Cures Act (H.R. 6). The AAMC represents all 141 accredited U.S. and 17 accredited Canadian medical schools; nearly 400 major teaching hospitals and health systems, including 51 Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers; and nearly 90 academic and scientific societies. Through these institutions and organizations, the AAMC represents 148,000 faculty members, 83,000 medical students, 115,000 resident physicians, and thousands of graduate students and postdoctoral scientists. More than 50 percent of the extramural funding awarded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) supports groundbreaking medical research at AAMC-member medical schools and teaching hospitals.

The AAMC commends you for your leadership and vision in recognizing the critical importance of maintaining funding for medical research as a national priority. In particular, we are deeply grateful for the provisions that would reauthorize the NIH for three years at funding levels that represent an increase of \$1.5 billion per year, and provide \$10 billion over the next five years in mandatory funding through an NIH Innovation Fund. This is a most welcome infusion of funding that will help revitalize and rebuild our nation's biomedical research capacity, which has eroded because of NIH losing nearly one-fourth of its budget after inflation in the past decade.

An important aspect of this Innovation Fund is that it supplement, not replace, the regular appropriations for NIH, and AAMC will work with Congress to insure that the Innovation Fund enhances the base NIH budget.

Recognizing the urgency of finalizing the bill before the next federal fiscal year, the AAMC and its members urge all House Members to co-sponsor the bill, and we call upon the House leadership to move H.R. 6 to floor consideration as quickly as possible.

Again, the AAMC thanks you and your staff for your tireless efforts to accelerate scientific discovery in the service of improved health, and we look forward to continuing to work with you as this legislation moves forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Atul Grover", written over a horizontal line.

Atul Grover, M.D., Ph.D.
Chief Public Policy Officer