



## THE AD HOC GROUP FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

December 4, 2020

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.  
President-elect  
1401 Constitution Ave. NW  
Washington, DC 20230

Dear President-elect Biden:

The Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research, and the 349 undersigned member organizations representing patients, clinicians, scientists, educators, academic institutions, research organizations, and industry, thank you for your steadfast support for science. As the oldest coalition advocating for the federal investment in the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and biomedical, bioengineering, behavioral, and social science research, we are grateful that you support increased and sustainable funding growth for the NIH as part of \$300 billion in new research and development investments in your Build Back Better plan.

We applaud the steps you and your team have already taken to seek and then follow recommendations from the scientific community during the deadly COVID-19 pandemic, and we appreciate your recognition that investments in scientific discovery are crucial to improving the nation's health and economy in both the near- and long-term. In the months and years ahead, we urge attention to:

- Foundational principles that promote both a thriving scientific enterprise and public trust in science;
- Emergency supplemental funding to allow the NIH to continue to make progress against COVID-19 and to resume pre-pandemic research; and
- Sustained, robust growth for the NIH's base budget across scientific disciplines and disease areas.

***Foundational Principles.*** As we turn to a new year, we urge your Administration to keep these foundational principles in mind:

- To improve health for all, supporting medical research must be a top national priority. Beyond robust funding, this includes appointing distinguished scientists to key science advisory and science agency leadership positions as soon as possible, ensuring they have access to the President, as well as the trust of the scientific community.
- Public policies must be evidence-based and guided by sound and transparent scientific discoveries. By ensuring clear communication, we can increase public trust in science.
- Diversity, equity, and inclusion are essential to the advancement of the best science and to solving the myriad health and societal challenges we face today, including tackling the health disparities laid bare by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Support for a strong research workforce pipeline is essential to ensure the U.S. is able to recruit and retain talented scientists into productive careers in medical research.
- Policies should facilitate a societal culture in which science can thrive and global, multi-sector collaboration is possible.

**Emergency Supplemental Funding.** As you know, the NIH plays an instrumental role in funding basic, translational, and clinical research in labs nationwide and facilitating the translation of this knowledge into applications for human health. For example, NIH-funded research has been critical to confronting the COVID-19 pandemic, among the most pressing public health crises of our time. Since the beginning of the pandemic, many NIH-funded researchers have focused on developing diagnostics, treatments, and vaccines for COVID-19. The incredible pace of scientific advancements over the past eleven months – from the rapid sequencing of the viral genome, to the development of new assays to test for infection, to preclinical and clinical testing of potential vaccine candidates and treatments – has been possible because of decades of NIH-funded basic research. As the world’s largest funder of biomedical research, the NIH has invested billions of dollars in developing the technologies, collaborative research networks, and a workforce that enabled this accelerated pace of biomedical innovation in the face of the COVID-19 emergency. As the fight against COVID-19 continues apace, we urge continued supplemental investments in the NIH to sustain this work and to ensure that efforts to combat the pandemic do not displace other essential avenues of discovery.

**Strong Commitment Across Disciplines and Disease Areas.** Robust, sustained, and predictable funding growth for the NIH base budget is also essential to ensuring that the U.S. is able to meet the scientific challenges beyond the COVID-19 pandemic and that our nation’s research institutions are able to rebuild in the face of devastating impacts to the biomedical research workforce. Continued investment in the broad array of biomedical research will be critical to furthering advances against the myriad diseases and conditions facing humankind, ranging from cancer to heart disease to stroke to diabetes to Alzheimer’s disease. A robust investment in medical research as a part of support for the broader public health continuum is crucial to improving the health of all.

Historically, and especially over the last five years, Democrats and Republicans have joined forces to prioritize funding the NIH, helping the agency regain some of the ground that it lost after years of effectively flat budgets. This most welcome renewed investment in the NIH has accelerated discovery toward promising therapies and diagnostics, reenergized existing and aspiring scientists nationwide, restored hope for patients and their families, and facilitated critical basic and applied research aimed at ending the COVID-19 pandemic and other threats. Support for the NIH also yields important benefits for local economies. In fiscal year (FY) 2019, NIH-funded research supported more than 476,000 jobs across the U.S. and generated more than \$81 billion in new economic activity.

To further realize the potential of medical research, our nation must continue this forward momentum with sustained, robust budget growth. As you consider your administration’s budget priorities for FY 2022 and beyond, the Ad Hoc Group recommends an ongoing commitment to meaningful growth above the cost of biomedical research inflation for the NIH. The stability associated with a budget trajectory that not only keeps pace with inflation but also allows investment in new research is essential to ensure we continue to push the boundaries of discovery toward meaningful outcomes for patients.

We are grateful for your outspoken support over many years for biomedical research and your leadership in making these funding and foundational commitments a reality. We offer the Ad Hoc Group and our community as a resource as you determine priorities and formulate budget requests as President. We look forward to working with you and your team toward our mutual goal of improved health.

Sincerely,

**349 Signatories as of December 3, 2020**

Academic Pediatric Association  
Academy of Radiology & Biomedical Imaging Research  
ACT for NIH  
Albert Einstein College of Medicine  
Alliance for Academic Internal Medicine  
Alliance for Aging Research  
Alpha-1 Foundation  
Alzheimer's Association  
Alzheimer's Foundation of America  
Alzheimer's Impact Movement  
Alzheimer's Los Angeles  
Alzheimer's Orange County  
American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry  
American Academy of Developmental Medicine and Dentistry  
American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine  
American Academy of Neurology  
American Academy of Otolaryngology- Head and Neck Surgery  
American Academy of Pediatrics  
American Academy of Sleep Medicine  
American Association for Anatomy  
American Association for Cancer Research  
American Association for Dental Research  
American Association for the Advancement of Science  
American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases  
American Association for Women in Radiology  
American Association of Chairs of Departments of Psychiatry  
American Association of Colleges of Nursing  
American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine  
American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy  
American Association of Immunologists  
American Association of Neurological Surgeons  
American Association of Physicists in Medicine  
American Association on Health and Disability  
American Brain Coalition  
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network  
American College of Academic Addiction Medicine  
American College of Cardiology  
American College of Clinical Pharmacology  
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists  
American College of Radiology  
American College of Rheumatology  
American Council on Education  
American Gastroenterological Association  
American Headache Society  
American Heart Association  
American Institute for Cancer Research  
American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering  
American Institute of Ultrasound in Medicine  
American Liver Foundation  
American Lung Association

American Massage Therapy Association  
American Network of Community Options and Resources  
American Neurological Association  
American Pediatric Society  
American Physiological Society  
American Psychological Association  
American Roentgen Ray Society  
American Society for Investigative Pathology  
American Society for Matrix Biology  
American Society for Microbiology  
American Society for Nutrition  
American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics  
American Society for Radiation Oncology  
American Society for Reproductive Medicine  
American Society for Transplantation and Cellular Therapy  
American Society for Virology  
American Society of Clinical Psychopharmacology  
American Society of Emergency Radiologists  
American Society of Hematology  
American Society of Human Genetics  
American Society of Nephrology  
American Society of Pediatric Nephrology  
American Society of Radiologic Technologists  
American Society of Transplantation  
American Thoracic Society  
American Urogynecologic Society  
Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago  
Anxiety and Depression Association of America  
Associated Medical Schools of New York  
Association for Clinical and Translational Science  
Association for Clinical Oncology  
Association for Prevention Teaching and Research  
Association for Psychological Science  
Association for Research in Otolaryngology  
Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology  
Association of Academic Health Centers  
Association of Academic Health Sciences Libraries  
Association of Academic Physiatrists  
Association of American Cancer Institutes  
Association of American Medical Colleges  
Association of American Universities  
Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges  
Association of Anatomy, Cell Biology and Neurobiology Chairs  
Association of Independent Research Institutes  
Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs  
Association of Pathology Chairs  
Association of Population Centers  
Association of Psychologists in Academic Health Centers  
Association of Public & Land-grant Universities  
Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry  
Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health  
Association of University Anesthesiologists

Association of University Professors of Neurology  
Association of University Professors of Ophthalmology  
Association of University Radiologists  
Atrium Health  
Autism Speaks  
Axis Advocacy  
Baylor College of Medicine  
Biophysical Society  
BJC HealthCare  
Boston University  
Bridge the Gap - SYNGAP1 Education and Research Foundation  
CADASIL Together We Have Hope  
Caregiver Action Network  
CaringKind, The Heart of Alzheimer's Caregiving  
Carle Illinois College of Medicine  
Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine  
Children's Healthcare of Atlanta  
Children's Hospital Los Angeles  
Children's Hospital of Philadelphia  
ChristianaCare  
Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation  
Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center  
Coalition for Clinical and Translational Science  
Coalition for the Life Sciences  
Columbia University  
Conference of Boston Teaching Hospitals  
Congress of Neurological Surgeons  
Consortium of Social Science Associations  
Cooley's Anemia Foundation  
Coriell Institute for Medical Research  
Cornell University  
Council of Graduate Schools  
Creighton University School of Medicine  
Cribs for Kids  
Crohn's & Colitis Foundation  
Cure Alzheimer's Fund  
Cystic Fibrosis Foundation  
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute  
Dartmouth-Hitchcock Health  
Deadliest Cancers Coalition  
Dementia Society of America  
Digestive Disease National Coalition  
Down with Dystonia  
Dravet Syndrome Foundation  
Duke Health  
Duke University  
Dup15q Alliance  
Dystonia Advocacy Network  
Dystonia Medical Research Foundation  
East Carolina University  
Emory University  
Endocrine Society

Epilepsy Foundation  
Esophageal Cancer Action Network  
EveryLife Foundation for Rare Diseases  
Eye Bank Association of America  
EyeSight Foundation of Alabama  
Family Caregiver Alliance  
Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology  
Federation of Associations in Behavioral and Brain Sciences  
Florida State University  
FND Hope International  
Fox Chase Cancer Center  
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center  
Friends of NCBDDD  
Friends of the National Institute on Aging  
GBS|CIDP Foundation International  
Global Health Technologies Coalition  
Global Liver Institute  
GO2 Foundation for Lung Cancer  
Harvard Medical School  
Harvard University  
Hennepin Healthcare Research Institute  
Hennepin Healthcare System  
Hepatitis B Foundation  
HIV Medicine Association  
Hope For Stomach Cancer  
Houston Methodist  
Huntington's Disease Society of America  
I AM ALS  
Indiana University  
Infectious Diseases Society of America  
International Association of Medical Science Educators  
International Cystitis Foundation  
International Retinal Research Foundation  
International Rett Syndrome Foundation  
International Society for Magnetic Resonance in Medicine  
International Society for Stem Cell Research  
Interstitial Cystitis Association  
JDRF  
Jeffrey Modell Foundation  
John & Amy Mewhiney Cancer Foundation  
Johns Hopkins University  
Konica Minolta Healthcare  
Leaders Engaged on Alzheimer's Disease Coalition  
Lennox-Gastaut Syndrome Foundation  
Lewy Body Dementia Association  
Louisiana State University  
Louisiana State University Health Science Center-New Orleans  
LuMind IDSC  
Lupus Foundation of America  
Lymphatic Education & Research Network  
March of Dimes  
Mass General Brigham

Mayo Clinic  
Medical College of Wisconsin  
Medical Image Perception Society  
Medical Library Association  
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center  
Mesothelioma Applied Research Foundation  
METAvivor  
Michigan State University  
Moffitt Cancer Center  
National Alliance for Eye and Vision Research  
National Alliance on Mental Illness  
National Alopecia Areata Foundation  
National Association of State Head Injury Administrators  
National Ataxia Foundation  
National Coalition for Heart and Stroke Research  
National Hemophilia Foundation  
National Kidney Foundation  
National Multiple Sclerosis Society  
National Pancreas Foundation  
National Task Group on Intellectual Disabilities and Dementia Practices  
NephCure Kidney International  
New York Medical College  
New York State Academic Dental Centers  
NorCal CarciNET Community  
North American Society of Cardiovascular Imaging  
North American Vascular Biology Organization  
Northeastern University  
Nutrition and Medical Foods Coalition  
NYU Langone Health  
Pancreatic Cancer Action Network  
PATH Decision Support Software  
Patient Services  
Patrick Risha CTE Awareness Foundation  
Pediatric Policy Council  
Personalized Medicine Coalition  
Phelan-McDermid Syndrome Foundation  
PKD Foundation  
Ponce Health Sciences University School of Medicine  
Population Association of America  
Project Sleep  
Prostate Cancer Foundation  
Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation  
Pulmonary Hypertension Association  
Radiological Society of North America  
Research to Prevent Blindness  
Restless Legs Syndrome Foundation  
Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science  
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey  
Saint Louis University  
Scleroderma Foundation  
Siemens Healthineers  
Sjogren's Foundation

Sleep Research Society  
Society for Academic Emergency Medicine  
Society for Advanced Body Imaging  
Society for Cardiovascular Magnetic Resonance  
Society for Imaging Informatics in Medicine  
Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine  
Society for Neuroscience  
Society for Pediatric Research  
Society for Reproductive Investigation  
Society for Women's Health Research  
Society of Abdominal Radiology  
Society of Academic Associations of Anesthesiology and Perioperative Medicine  
Society of Breast Imaging  
Society of Cardiovascular Computed Tomography  
Society of Chairs of Academic Radiology Departments  
Society of General Internal Medicine  
Society of Gynecologic Oncology  
Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging  
Society of Radiologists in Ultrasound  
Society of Skeletal Radiology  
Society of Thoracic Radiology  
Southern Illinois University School of Medicine  
Special Care Dentistry Association  
Stanford University  
Stony Brook University  
Susan G. Komen  
Temple University  
Temple University Health System  
The Biomedical Engineering Society  
The Brain Donor Project  
The George Washington University  
The Gerontological Society of America  
The Histochemical Society  
The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research  
The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center  
The Society for Pediatric Radiology  
The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center  
The University of Toledo  
Treatment Communities of America  
Tuberous Sclerosis Alliance  
Tulane University  
Tulane University School of Medicine  
United for Charitable Assistance  
United for Medical Research  
United Mitochondrial Disease Foundation  
University of California Los Angeles  
University of California San Diego  
University of California San Francisco  
University of California System  
University of Central Florida  
University of Chicago Medicine  
University of Cincinnati



University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus  
University of Colorado Boulder  
University of Connecticut  
University of Florida  
University of Hawaii - John A. Burns School of Medicine  
University of Illinois College of Medicine  
University of Iowa Health Care  
University of Maryland, Baltimore  
University of Massachusetts Medical School  
University of Miami Miller School of Medicine  
University of Michigan  
University of Minnesota Medical School  
University of New Mexico  
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Medicine  
University of North Dakota School of Medicine & Health Sciences  
University of Pennsylvania  
University of Pittsburgh  
University of Rhode Island College of Health Sciences  
University of Rochester  
University of Southern California  
University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center  
University of Utah  
University of Virginia School of Medicine  
University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Medicine and Public Health  
US Hereditary Angioedema Foundation  
UsAgainstAlzheimer's  
USF Health Morsani College of Medicine  
Valleywise Health  
Vanderbilt University  
Vanderbilt University Medical Center  
Virginia Commonwealth University and VCU Health System  
Wake Forest Clinical and Translational Science Institute  
Wake Forest School of Medicine  
Washington State University  
Washington University in St. Louis  
West Virginia University  
World Molecular Imaging Society  
Yale University