



THE AD HOC GROUP FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

May 19, 2021

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Steny Hoyer
Majority Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leaders Schumer, Hoyer, McCarthy, and McConnell:

On behalf of the 229 undersigned members of the Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research, thank you for your longstanding support for the National Institutes of Health (NIH). As Congress considers legislation to strengthen the nation's infrastructure and bolster economic recovery, **we urge you to include, among the other key national priorities, investments in the infrastructure underpinning the medical research enterprise.**

Like the physical roads and bridges that we traditionally consider infrastructure, our nation's medical research facilities and research personnel are critical infrastructure that are essential to improve our health and prosperity. As you know, the federal commitment to medical research supported and conducted by NIH not only has been core to the extraordinary progress the U.S. has made against COVID-19 through multiple effective vaccines and other countermeasures, but also is instrumental in combatting every other health threat facing patients and their families. In addition to promoting a healthy and productive population, support for NIH also generates local and regional economic activity nationwide, catalyzes the growth of new industries and well-paying jobs, and promotes our national competitiveness.

We are grateful to Congress for the strong, bipartisan investments in NIH through the annual appropriations process in recent years, and we look forward to working with you to continue that trajectory of sustained, robust growth in FY 2022. Likewise, we appreciate the supplemental funding that Congress has directed to NIH over the last year to advance research on COVID-19. **To fully optimize the nation's potential to advance new therapeutics, diagnostics, preventive interventions, and cures, however, we call to your attention additional priorities that remain in urgent need of action through one-time emergency investments.**

Specifically, we remain alarmed by the impact that the pandemic is having on the research workforce and the broad portfolio of pre-pandemic research supported by the NIH. As a result of necessary social distancing and other precautions that went into effect last spring, labs across the country were forced to shut down for several months, disrupting projects that were underway before the public health emergency. While many institutions have been implementing plans to ramp this work back up again as safely as possible, challenges associated with the disruptions continue to linger. For example, certain types of research – such as clinical trials and other research projects with human participants – have been slower to recover. Additionally, as a result of the lags, we risk undoing progress we have made in recent years in strengthening the research workforce, including among women, underrepresented minorities, and early-career investigators and others at a pivotal point in their career trajectories.

Though resources for NIH to mitigate pre-pandemic research disruptions have been proposed, the enacted supplemental funding packages to date have not included such funding. While we are grateful for the flexibilities NIH has been offering to address these challenges, without additional funding support, these efforts will threaten the agency's ability to support new research at a time when NIH already can fund only one in every five proposals. **To enable NIH to mitigate the pandemic-related disruptions without foregoing promising new science, the Ad Hoc Group strongly supports one-time emergency funding for federal research agencies as outlined in the bipartisan RISE Act (H.R. 869/S. 289), including \$10 billion for NIH.**

Additionally, the Ad Hoc Group urges support for extramural and intramural research facility upgrades to ensure access to cutting-edge technologies and laboratory infrastructure. NIH researchers in both the extramural and intramural programs are continually innovating and working toward bold medical research discoveries. These discoveries occur at an increasingly fast pace, and the ability to conduct cutting-edge research relies upon access to state-of-the-art technologies and the appropriate physical infrastructure to support these technologies and corresponding research. Specifically related to NIH's intramural facilities, the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine published a 2019 report recommending \$1.3 billion in new funding to address needed buildings and facilities upgrades to catch-up on maintenance and repair backlogs on NIH's main campus,¹ a need that rises to \$1.9 billion when NIH's other campuses and the fact that NASEM's report is based on 2018 dollars are taken into account.

Extramural research institutions also need to ensure that researchers have access to cutting-edge facilities and infrastructure. The Ad Hoc Group encourages Congress to invest now in federal and non-federal physical infrastructure improvements for all medical researchers supported by NIH to foster continued efforts toward cutting-edge, foundational, and translational medical research discoveries and to ensure the U.S. research enterprise maintains its global competitiveness. Recent investments in interconnected data repositories, core facilities with shared instrumentation, and specialized research spaces such as biosafety level 3+ laboratories have facilitated the research community's ability to quickly develop and implement research plans. **Investments in research infrastructure such as high-speed computation, greater data repository capacity, improved biocontainment capabilities, and other cutting-edge research facilities will contribute to greater resiliency during pandemics and will better**

¹ National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine 2019. Managing the NIH Bethesda Campus's Capital Assets for Success in a Highly Competitive Global Biomedical Research Environment. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press. <https://doi.org/10.17226/25483>.

prepare the research community – and the nation – to respond to future outbreaks and other existing and emerging threats.

These investments will help equip the medical research enterprise to support both the human and physical infrastructure necessary to continue our nation's legacy of global leadership in discovery and innovation. Every individual benefits directly and indirectly from these key investments, and we urge you to consider them a priority as the legislative process moves forward.

Sincerely,

229 Signatories as of 05.19.21

Academic Pediatric Association
Academy for Radiology & Biomedical Imaging Research
ACT for NIH
Alliance for Aging Research
Alpha-1 Foundation
American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine
American Academy of Neurology
American Academy of Pediatrics
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 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 Neuromuscular & Electrodiagnostic Medicine
American Association of Physicists in Medicine
American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges
American Brain Coalition
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN)
American College of Nuclear Medicine (ACNM)
American College of Physicians
American College of Radiology
American College of Rheumatology
American Council on Education
American Gastroenterological 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 Pediatric Society
American Physician Scientists Association
American Physiological Society
American Psychological Association
American Roentgen Ray Society

American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy
American Society for Investigative Pathology
American Society for Microbiology
American Society for Nutrition
American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics
American Society for Reproductive Medicine (ASRM)
American Society of Hematology
American Society of Human Genetics
American Society of Nephrology
American Society of Neuroradiology
American Society of Pediatric Nephrology
American Society of Radiologic Technologists
American Thoracic Society
American Urogynecologic Society
American Urological Association
Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago
Associated Medical Schools of New York
Association for Clinical and Translational Science
Association for Clinical Oncology
Association for Psychological Science
Association for Research in Otolaryngology
Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO)
Association of Academic Health Centers
Association of American Cancer Institutes
Association of American Medical Colleges
Association of American Universities
Association of Independent Research Institutes
Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs
Association of Minority Health Professions Schools
Association of Population Centers
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities
Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry (ASCO)
Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health
Atrium Health
Biomedical Engineering Society
Biophysical Society
Boston University
Brain Aneurysm Foundation
Carle Illinois College of Medicine
Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine
Cedars-Sinai
Children's Cancer Cause
Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
ChristianaCare
Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center
Clinical Research Forum
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
Creighton University School of Medicine
Cure Alzheimer's Fund
Cystic Fibrosis Foundation
Dartmouth-Hitchcock Health
Deadliest Cancers Coalition
Digestive Disease National Coalition
Duke Health
Dystonia Advocacy Network
Dystonia Medical Research Foundation
ECAN Esophageal Cancer Action Network
Emory University
Endocrine Society
Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology
Federation of Associations in Behavioral and Brain Sciences
Florida State University
Foundation for Sarcoidosis Research
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center
GBS|CIDP Foundation International
GenTAC Alliance
Global Health Technologies Coalition
Global Liver Institute
GO2 Foundation for Lung Cancer
Hackensack Meridian Health
HCA Healthcare
Heart Failure Society of America
Henry Ford Health System
Hepatitis B Foundation
HIV Medicine Association
Hope For Stomach Cancer
International Foundation for Gastrointestinal Disorders
International Rett Syndrome Foundation
International Society for Magnetic Resonance in Medicine (ISMRM)
International Society for Stem Cell Research
Interstitial Cystitis Association
JDRF
Jeffrey Modell Foundation
Johns Hopkins University
Livestrong
Loeys-Dietz Syndrome Foundation
Lupus Foundation of America
Lymphatic Education & Research Network
Mass General Brigham
Mayo Clinic
Medical College of Wisconsin
Medical Image Perception Society
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center
METAvivor

National Alliance for Eye and Vision Research
National Alliance on Mental Illness
National Alopecia Areata Foundation
National Association for Biomedical Research
National Eczema Association
National Kidney Foundation
National Pancreas Foundation
NephCure Kidney International
North American Society for Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition
North American Vascular Biology Organization
Nutrition & Medical Foods Coalition
NYU Langone Health
Path Decision Support Software, LLC
Patient Services, Inc.
Pediatric Policy Council
Population Association of America
Project Sleep
Prostate Cancer Foundation
Pulmonary Hypertension Association
Radiological Society of North America (RSNA)
Research!America
Restless Legs Syndrome Foundation
Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
Saint Louis University
Scleroderma Foundation
Sjogren's Foundation
Sleep Research Society
Society for Advanced Body Imaging
Society for Imaging Informatics in Medicine
Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer (SITC)
Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine
Society for Neuroscience
Society for Pediatric Research
Society for Radiologists in Ultrasound (SRU)
Society for Women's Health Research
Society of Breast Imaging
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
St. Baldrick's Foundation
Stanford University
Temple University
Texas A&M Health
The American Society for Reproductive Medicine
The George Washington University
The Marfan Foundation
The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center

The Society for Pediatric Radiology
The VEDS Movement
Triage Cancer
UC San Francisco
UCLA
University of California San Diego
University of California System
University of Chicago Medical Center
University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus
University of Connecticut
University of Hawaii - John A. Burns School of Medicine
University of Hawai'i System
University of Illinois College of Medicine
University of Illinois Hospital and Health Sciences System
University of Iowa
University of Iowa Health Care
University of Maryland, Baltimore
University of Massachusetts Medical School
University of Michigan
University of Minnesota Medical School
University of Nebraska Medical Center
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
University of Pennsylvania
University of Pittsburgh
University of Rochester
University of Southern California
University of Utah
University of Virginia School of Medicine
University of Washington
US Hereditary Angioedema Association
USF Health Morsani College of Medicine
UTHealth Houston | The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston
Virginia Commonwealth University
Wake Forest School of Medicine
Washington State University
West Virginia University
World Molecular Imaging Society
Yale University