



THE AD HOC GROUP FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

November 2, 2016

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Majority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Harry Reid
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Ryan, Leader McCarthy, Leader Pelosi, Leader McConnell, and Leader Reid:

On behalf of the Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research, thank you for your efforts to ensure that a robust, sustained investment in medical research through the National Institutes of Health (NIH) is a high national priority. The Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research is a coalition of more than 200 patient and voluntary health groups, medical and scientific societies, academic and research organizations, and industry, dedicated to enhancing the federal investment in biomedical, behavioral, social, and population-based research supported by NIH.

Our community is grateful for the bipartisan, bicameral efforts over the last two years – through 21st Century Cures, the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee’s innovation working groups, and the appropriations process – to strengthen the nation’s investment in NIH. As lawmakers return to Washington this fall, we urge you to include at least \$34.1 billion for NIH in a final FY 2017 spending package and to pass medical innovation legislation that includes a multi-year Innovation Fund that would provide targeted investments for specific multi-year initiatives at NIH.

Completing both of these items by the end of the calendar year will be essential to avoid harmful delays and to facilitate maximum efficiency in research planning.

An important element of the Innovation Fund is that it would enhance, not replace, a strong investment in NIH through the regular appropriations process. The Innovation Fund would support specific large-scale initiatives at NIH without forcing NIH to redirect resources away from other existing and emerging fields of study. This funding, along with reliable and meaningful growth in the base NIH budget, positions the agency – and the patients who rely on it – to capitalize on the full spectrum of research from basic to translational, and across the breadth of discovery in the biomedical, behavioral, social, and population-based sciences.

Together, enactment of an FY 2017 omnibus with \$34.1 billion for NIH and of a multi-year Innovation Fund to augment the NIH appropriation would go a long way toward reversing the erosion of NIH's purchasing power, which is nearly 20 percent lower than 2003 after adjusting for inflation. In addition to improving the health and well-being of patients nationwide, the ongoing success of the medical research enterprise also drives local and national economic activity, strengthens U.S. competitiveness in an increasingly innovation-based global marketplace, and inspires future generations of scientists to commit to careers in research.

Thank you again for your leadership in advancing these important measures and bringing hope of a healthier tomorrow to patients and their families.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tannaz Rasouli'.

Tannaz Rasouli
Executive Director
The Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research