



THE AD HOC GROUP FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

Contact: Tannaz Rasouli
202-828-0525
trasouli@aamc.org

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The Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research strongly supports the Innovation Account in the 21st Century Cures Act because it provides a meaningful injection of funds for lifesaving biomedical research at the National Institutes of Health (NIH). We particularly endorse that the innovation fund will enhance, not replace, a strong investment in NIH through the regular appropriations process, and going forward we will work with Congress to ensure continued, sustainable growth in the base NIH budget. In this way, 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.

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. We have been working for years to make up the biomedical research funding lost through years of budget cuts, sequestration and flat funding.

Enactment 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. Additionally, we are grateful that this bill provides continued, steady growth in NIH authorization levels to facilitate stability in the nation's research capacity over the long term. To maximize the potential of medical research, the scientific community has supported a budget trajectory that keeps pace with and enables additional growth above inflation, and we look forward to working with lawmakers toward that goal.

We also appreciate that this bill includes provisions to streamline administrative requirements to reduce the administrative burden on researchers and provisions to support the next generation of researchers so that we can continue to inspire a passion for science in future researchers.

As you know, 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.