



## 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,<sup>1</sup> 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**

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<sup>1</sup> 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