February 7, 2017

Dear President Trump, Speaker Ryan, Leader McConnell, Leader Pelosi, and Leader Schumer:

As the new Administration and 115th Congress begin, the 260 undersigned members of the Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research urge you to enact without further delay a final fiscal year (FY) 2017 spending package that includes the Senate Appropriations Committee-approved $34.1 billion for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and to ensure that NIH remains a priority in FY 2018 and beyond. The Ad Hoc Group is a coalition of 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.

As you know, a robust, reliable investment in scientific discovery is crucial to improve patients’ health, strengthen the economy in the near- and long-term, and maintain the U.S.’s global preeminence in medical innovation. Through NIH, the federal government plays an irreplaceable
role in supporting biomedical research that is inherently inefficient for industry to conduct but is essential to inform our fundamental understanding of medicine. More than 80 percent of the NIH’s budget supports research in all 50 states and D.C., as well as U.S. territories, at medical schools, teaching hospitals, universities, and research institutes, which often are among the largest employers in their respective communities. The attached fact sheet details the return on investment of NIH funding, as well as polling data demonstrating the public’s strong support for sustaining this investment.

We are grateful Congress recently took important steps to help NIH regain some of its lost purchasing power after years of stagnant funding, by providing real funding growth over inflation for NIH in FY 2016 and by approving the 21st Century Cures Act with near-unanimous margins. A flat FY 2017 appropriation threatens to undermine these key efforts. The budget ambiguity resulting from the current continuing resolution leaves the agency and researchers in limbo; worse, the prospect of a flat or reduced final budget not only would delay progress, but also could serve to discourage the next generation of researchers from careers in science.

We are committed to working with you to continue the longstanding, bipartisan tradition of enhancing the federal investment in medical discovery toward our mutual goal of advancing the health and well-being of the American people. To ensure America’s continued leadership in an increasingly competitive innovation economy and alleviate suffering for millions of patients awaiting the promise of a healthier tomorrow, we must prioritize a budget trajectory for NIH that advances sustainable, predictable growth. We urge you to approve an FY 2017 appropriation of $34.1 billion for NIH without further delay and to ensure that NIH remains a top priority in FY 2018 and beyond.

Sincerely,

Academic Consortium for Integrative Medicine and Health
Academic Pediatric Association
Academy for Radiology & Biomedical Imaging Research
Academy of Neurology
AcademyHealth
ACT for NIH: Advancing Cures Today
Adult Congenital Heart Association
Alliance for Aging Research
Alpha-1 Foundation
Alzheimer's Association
American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry
American Academy of Dermatology Association
American Academy of Neurology
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Anthropological Association
American Association for Cancer Research
Association for Clinical and Translational Science
Association for Psychological Science
Association for Research in Otolaryngology (ARO)
Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology
Association of Academic Health Sciences Libraries
Association of American Cancer Institutes
Association of American Medical Colleges
Association of American Universities
Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges
Association of Black Cardiologists
Association of Independent Research Institutes
Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs
Association of Minority Health Professions Schools (AMHPS)
Association of Pathology Chairs
Association of Population Centers
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities
Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health
AVAC
Baylor College of Medicine
Beaumont Health
Benign Essential Blepharospasm Research Foundation (BEBRF)
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston
Beyond Celiac
Biophysical Society
Boston University School of Medicine
Case Western Reserve University
Cedars-Sinai
Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences at Stanford University
Childhood Brain Tumor Foundation
Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia
Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation
Coalition for Clinical and Translational Science
Coalition for Enhancing Diversity in Science
Coalition for the Life Sciences
Coalition to Promote Research
Cognitive Science Society
Columbia University
Conference of Boston Teaching Hospitals
Congress of Neurological Surgeons
Consortium of Social Science Associations
Cooley’s Anemia Foundation
Cornell University
Crohn’s & Colitis Foundation of America
Cystic Fibrosis Foundation
David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA
Deadliest Cancers Coalition
Debbie’s Dream Foundation: Curing Stomach Cancer
Digestive Disease National Coalition
Duke Health
Duke University School of Medicine
Dystonia Advocacy Network (DAN)
Dystonia Medical Research Foundation
East Carolina University - The Brody School of Medicine
Eastern Virginia Medical School
Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation
Emory University
Endocrine Society
Epilepsy Foundation
Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology
Federation of Associations in Behavioral and Brain Sciences
FRAXA Research Foundation
Friends of National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research
Friends of NIH Behavioral and Social Sciences Research
GBS|CIDP Foundation International
Harvard University
Heart Failure Society of America
Hepatitis B Foundation
Hepatitis Foundation International
HIV Medicine Association
Indiana University
Infectious Diseases Society of America
International Essential Tremor Foundation
International Foundation for Functional Gastrointestinal Disorders
International Myeloma Foundation
Interstitial Cystitis Association
Jeffrey Modell Foundation
Johns Hopkins University
Lancaster General Health/Penn Medicine
Lewis Katz School of Medicine at Temple University
LSU Health-New Orleans
Lupus Foundation of America
Lupus Research Alliance
March of Dimes
Mayo Clinic
Medical College of Wisconsin
Medical Library Association
Medical University of South Carolina
Meharry Medical College
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center
METAvivor
Michigan State University
Morehouse School of Medicine
Movers & Shakers Parkinson Advocacy and Education Organization
Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA)
National Alliance for Eye and Vision Research
National Alliance on Mental Illness
National Alopecia Areata Foundation
National Association for Biomedical Research (NABR)
National Coalition for Cancer Research (NCCR)
National Fragile X Foundation
National Hemophilia Foundation
National Kidney Foundation
National Multiple Sclerosis Society
National Organization for Rare Disorders (NORD)
National Pancreas Foundation
National Spasmodic Dysphonia Association (NSDA)
National Spasmodic Torticollis Association
NephCure Kidney International
New York Medical College
Northeast Ohio Medical University
Northeastern University
NYU Langone Medical Center
ONE MIND
Oregon Health & Science University
Organic Acidemia Association
Pancreatic Cancer Action Network
Patrick Risha CTE Awareness Foundation
Pediatric Policy Council
Penn Medicine
Penn State University
PKD Foundation
Population Association of America
Project Inform
Pulmonary Hypertension Association
Renal Physicians Association
Research!America
Robert Larner, M.D. College of Medicine at the University of Vermont
Scleroderma Foundation
Simon Foundation
Sleep Research Society
Society for Investigative Dermatology
Society for Neuroscience
Society for Pediatric Research
Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues (SPSSI)
Society of Behavioral Medicine
Society of Biological Psychiatry
Society of General Internal Medicine
Society of Gynecologic Oncology
University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center
University of Virginia
University of Virginia School of Medicine
University of Washington
University of Wisconsin - Madison
University of Pittsburgh
UsAgainstAlzheimer’s
Vanderbilt University
Washington State University
Washington University in St. Louis
Weill Cornell Medicine
West Virginia University School of Medicine
Western Michigan University Homer Stryker MD School of Medicine
Yale University

cc: The Honorable Tom Price, M.D., Secretary-Designate of Health and Human Services
The Honorable Mick Mulvaney, White House Office of Management and Budget
Director-designate