



THE AD HOC GROUP FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

For immediate release

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Ad Hoc Group Commends Inclusion of Medical Research Funds in Economic Recovery Proposal

Washington, DC, January 17, 2009 -- The Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research commends the House leadership for including a strong investment in medical research as part of its economic recovery proposal. We agree that an important strategy for economic recovery must emphasize scientific investments that can restore and sustain national and local economic growth and vitality.

The proposed investments in medical research, facilities, and scientific instrumentation through the National Institutes of Health (NIH) would create and sustain high-paying jobs immediately and would reinvigorate the nation's ability to produce the human and intellectual capital that can transform health and improve the quality of life for all Americans. Moreover, we see this as the first step in an essential, long-term national commitment to sustained, predictable growth in medical research funding.

At the same time, this nation's medical research enterprise has more capacity to create and save jobs, while speeding scientific discovery, if more funds are made available. In 2007, 85 percent of NIH's \$29 billion annual budget funded research at universities, medical schools, teaching hospitals, and independent research institutes in every state. And each dollar of NIH funding generated more than twice as much in state economic output.

As policy makers continue to weigh many difficult choices to address America's troubled economic situation, we strongly support their focus on science as a key solution. The medical research community looks forward to working with the Congress and the Obama Administration to renew America's commitment to scientific research and discovery.

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The Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research is a coalition representing nearly 300 patient and voluntary health groups, medical and scientific societies, academic and research organizations, and industry. The Ad Hoc Group has one mission: to enhance the federal investment in biomedical, behavioral, and population-based research by increasing the funding for the National Institutes of Health.