



## THE AD HOC GROUP FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

February 16, 2011

Dear Member of Congress:

The Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research, which represents nearly 300 patient groups, scientific and medical societies, research institutions and industry organizations, respectfully urges you to oppose the provisions in H.R. 1 that would decrease funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) by \$1.6 billion in FY 2011.

A cut of this magnitude will slow research progress and squander invaluable scientific opportunities, to the detriment of our nation's health and our ability to maintain leadership in the global innovation economy. Recent investments have created dramatic new research opportunities in areas ranging from genetics to behavioral research, spurring advancements and precipitating the promise of personalized medicine that will yield far-reaching health and economic benefits. Trials to find new therapies for cancer, the development of tools to help public health workers respond to emerging infectious diseases, and continued efforts to develop an artificial pancreas that could help the 23 million Americans struggling with diabetes, are just a few of the important projects that could be delayed or deferred as a result of this cut.

It is critically important that we continue to capitalize on the momentum of previous investments to drive research progress, train the next generation of scientists, create jobs, and promote economic growth. According to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), national expenditures for research and development as a percentage of gross domestic product (GDP) remained static for the United States between 2001 and 2008 while growing by nearly 60 percent in China and 34 percent in South Korea.

The Ad Hoc Group strongly opposes the \$1.6 billion cut for NIH proposed in H.R. 1. The American people are depending on you to ensure the nation does not lose the health and economic benefits of our extraordinary commitment to medical research. We look forward to working with you to continue to improve the health of the American people through medical research.

Sincerely,

David B. Moore  
Executive Director