



THE AD HOC GROUP FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

October 11, 2013

The Honorable John Boehner
Speaker
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Boehner, Leader Pelosi, Leader Reid, and Leader McConnell:

As a coalition of more than 300 patient and voluntary health groups, medical and scientific societies, academic and research organizations, and industry, the Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research urges Congress to consider the adverse impact that the government-wide shutdown is having on the research conducted and supported by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the patients whose lives depend on it.

NIH-funded research is the foundation for the continuum of federal public health programs that improve the health and quality of life for all Americans. The Ad Hoc Group and its members urge the Congress and the Administration to work together to reopen the entire federal government to permit these essential activities to resume.

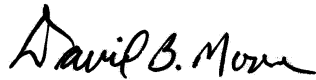
The government shutdown has forced 75 percent of the NIH workforce to remain off the job. This loss of key personnel is affecting scientists not only working in the agency's renowned Clinical Center, but also at universities and research institutions nationwide. Consider these facts:

- Every week the NIH remains closed, scores of patients, including children, who want to enroll in NIH-conducted clinical trials, will be turned away.
- The agency cannot issue new grants or contracts to scientists whose peer-reviewed research has competed successfully for precious NIH resources.
- Review of new research proposals has been put on hold, creating a backlog that may delay the start of this research even after the government returns to work.
- Researchers at institutions collaborating with scientists on the NIH campus cannot continue their work.

- NIH program officers cannot respond to inquiries or provide grantees with technical assistance.
- Staff cannot collaborate with one another or with scientists outside of the NIH in workshops, conferences, or other forums to identify emerging scientific research opportunities.
- Funding for programs aimed at training the next generation of scientists is stymied—further undermining the confidence and ability of young investigators to pursue research careers.

The damage from the shutdown has both immediate and long-term consequences for the NIH and for the nation's health. These negative impacts come on top of the significant losses from sequestration and thus will have an exponentially negative effect. The Ad Hoc Group's members urge Congress and the Administration to work together to negotiate an end to the government shutdown, restore pre-sequestration funding levels for the NIH, and devise a long-term strategy to ensure the NIH receives the necessary funding to continue its vital lifesaving mission "to enhance health, lengthen life, and reduce illness and disability."

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David B. Moore". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

David B. Moore
Executive Director