

Letter on 302(b) Allocations and NIH Funding from the Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research Funding (same letter sent to Rep. David Obey (D-WI) and to Senators Ted Stevens (R-AK) and Robert Byrd (D-WVa)

April 29, 2003

The Honorable C. W. Bill Young
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The undersigned members of the Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research Funding respectfully urge the Appropriations Committee to provide a sufficient allocation to the Labor-HHS-Education subcommittee that will enable Congress to continue to support a robust medical research enterprise dedicated to improving the health of the American people.

The Ad Hoc Group's members are deeply grateful to the Congress for the doubling of the budget of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). This commitment to increase our national investment in medical research has brought new energy and vitality to the research enterprise and has enabled NIH to expand its efforts to translate the findings of basic research into better ways to diagnose, treat and prevent disease. It is essential that the momentum of discovery be sustained, so that the foundations for medical progress established during the past five years are not eroded.

The diagnosis and treatment of many diseases have undergone fundamental transformations thanks to NIH-funded research. These innovations are relieving pain and suffering and enhancing the quality of life of every American family touched by disease and disability. They also are helping to reduce the cost of health care and to fuel economic growth. Only continued, sustained investment in life-saving medical science today will provide cures and therapies tomorrow.

The Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research Funding has recommended Congress add 10% in FY 2004 to the doubled budget of the NIH. As you determine the 302(b) allocation for the Labor-HHS-Education subcommittee, please consider the critical importance of medical research to the quality of life for all Americans and provide sufficient funds to meet this goal. We look forward to continuing to work with you on this important issue.

To respond to this letter, please contact David Moore, Executive Director of the Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research Funding, at 202-828-0559 or dbmoore@aamc.org.

Sincerely,

Academic Health Centers Clinical Research Forum
Administrators of Internal Medicine
Alliance for Academic Internal Medicine
Alliance for Aging Research
Alzheimer's Association
Ambulatory Pediatric Association
American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology
American Academy of Dermatology Association
American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons
American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Association for Dental Research
American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases
American Association of Colleges of Nursing
American Association of Immunologists
American Chemical Society
American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
American College of Rheumatology
American Federation for Medical Research
American Heart Association
The American Liver Foundation
American Osteopathic Association
American Pediatric Society
American Physiological Society
American Psychiatric Association
American Psychological Association
American Psychological Society
American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
American Society for Bone and Mineral Research
American Society for Clinical Nutrition
American Society for Microbiology
American Society for Pharmacology & Experimental Therapeutics
American Society for Tropical Medicine and Hygiene
American Society of Clinical Oncology
American Society of Hematology
American Society of Nephrology
American Society of Pediatric Nephrology
American Sociological Association
American Thoracic Society
American Urogynecologic Society
Arthritis Foundation
Association of American Medical Colleges
Association of American Universities
Association of Independent Research Institutes
Association of Medical School Pediatric Chairs

Association of Professors of Medicine
Association of Program Directors in Internal Medicine
Association of Subspecialty Professors
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses
Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America
Boys Town National Research Hospital
Campaign for Medical Research Center for the Advancement of Health
Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science
Christopher Reeve Paralysis Foundation
Clerkship Directors in Internal Medicine
College of American Pathologists
Consortium of Social Science Associations
Cooley's Anemia Foundation
Coriell Institute for Medical Research
Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America
Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance
Digestive Disease National Coalition
Dystonia Medical Research Foundation
Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology
First Candle/Sudden Infant Death Syndrome Alliance
General Clinical Research Centers Program Directors' Association
The Genome Action Coalition
The Gerontological Society of America
Hepatitis Foundation
International Immune Deficiency Foundation
International Foundation for Functional Gastrointestinal Disorders
Jeffrey Modell Foundation
Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation
International Medical Dermatology Society
Morehouse School of Medicine
Mount Sinai School of Medicine
National AHEC Organization
National Alliance for Autism Research
National Alliance for Eye and Vision Research
National Alliance for the Mentally Ill
National Association of Social Workers
National Association of State University & Land-Grant Colleges
National Caucus of Basic Biomedical Science Chairs
National Coalition for Osteoporosis and Related Bone Diseases
National Health Council
National Kidney Foundation
National Marfan Foundation
National Multiple Sclerosis Society
National Osteoporosis Foundation
National Organization for Rare Disorders
National Primate Research Centers Directors

NephCure Foundation
Neurofibromatosis Association of Arizona
Neurofibromatosis, Inc. New England
The Paget Foundation
The Pennsylvania State University College of Medicine
The Protein Society
Pulmonary Hypertension Association
Research!America
RESOLVE: The National Infertility Association
Sjogren's Syndrome Foundation
Society of Gynecologic Oncologists
Society for Investigative Dermatology
Society for Neuroscience
Society for Pediatric Research
Society for Women's Health Research
Texas Neurofibromatosis Foundation
Tuberous Sclerosis Alliance
The University of Florida-Health Science Center
Wisconsin Association for Biomedical Research & Education Women's Health Research
Coalition

cc: The Honorable Ralph Regula
The Honorable Dennis Hastert
The Honorable Tom DeLay