



THE AD HOC GROUP FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

The Ad Hoc Group Fiscal Year 2023 Recommendation

The ### undersigned members of the Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research, which includes organizations representing patients, scientists, health professionals, research and academic institutions, educators, and industry, are grateful to Congress for making meaningful annual funding growth for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) a key, bipartisan national priority. NIH-funded biomedical, behavioral, social, and population-based research improves our understanding of fundamental life and health sciences, equips the nation to combat both known and unprecedented health threats, and converts the hope of improved health into a reality for patients and their families. The federal investment in this lifesaving work in labs across the country also has a multiplier effect in local and regional economies, catalyzes new industries, enhances the U.S.'s global competitiveness, establishes viable career paths for aspiring scientists of diverse backgrounds, and generates other high quality jobs in communities nationwide.¹

To promote the sustained, robust growth necessary to make consequential progress against pressing health challenges, **in fiscal year (FY) 2023, the Ad Hoc Group recommends a program level of at least \$49.048 billion for the NIH base budget**, which would represent an increase of \$4.1 billion over the comparable FY 2022 funding level (an increase of \$3.5 billion or 7.9% in the NIH appropriation plus funding from the 21st Century Cures Act for specific initiatives). **Importantly, the Ad Hoc Group strongly urges lawmakers to ensure that any funding for the new Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H) supplement our \$49 billion recommendation for NIH's base budget, rather than supplant the essential foundational investment in the NIH.** In addition, the coalition supports the president's proposal to supplement NIH's budget with additional mandatory funding to speed the pace of pandemic response and readiness.

Several members of Congress^{2,3} and the president⁴ have recommended restoring federal research and development (R&D) investments to 2% of U.S. gross domestic product. Over the years, distinguished leaders and experts in medical research have similarly recommended

¹ United for Medical Research. NIH's Role In Sustaining The U.S. Economy. https://unitedformedicalresearch.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/UMR_NIHs-Role-in-Sustaining-the-U.S.-Economy-FY21.pdf. Accessed March 31, 2022.

² Schumer, C, Young, T, Khanna, R, Gallagher, M. US needs bipartisan push for scientific research after coronavirus: Congressional leaders. *USA Today*. May 14, 2020. <https://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/2020/05/14/coronavirus-exposes-danger-of-underinvesting-in-scientific-research-column/3115013001/>

³ Connolly, G. A competitive America must invest in R&D. *The Hill*. September 30, 2021. <https://thehill.com/blogs/congress-blog/technology/574791-a-competitive-america-must-invest-in-rd?rl=1>

⁴ President Joe Biden. State of the Union Address. March 2, 2022. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/speeches-remarks/2022/03/02/remarks-by-president-biden-in-state-of-the-union-address/>

sustained real growth through increases that exceed inflation by 4-6%.^{5,6,7,8} The Science & Technology Action Committee also recently estimated that the U.S. should double its R&D investment by 2026 in order to remain a global competitor in science, technology, engineering, and math.⁹ As the world's premier public funder of medical research, the NIH is a critical contributor to that international leadership, and robust annual growth in support for NIH will be key to achieving these objectives.

The countermeasures developed to respond to the global COVID-19 pandemic over the last two years are only the latest example of the value of the nation's longstanding commitment to the NIH. Decades of medical research supported by the NIH are the underpinning of virtually every diagnostic, treatment, and preventive intervention available today, and building on this foundation with the scientific studies of tomorrow will be key to ending cancer — and every other disease — as we know it. To fully harness novel research tools and partnerships against existing and looming threats, we must continue the forward momentum of meaningful investments in the NIH. Federal funding for research should be as aspirational as the improvements in patient health that we seek.

We urge lawmakers to continue to support discovery, to ensure a funding allocation for the Labor-HHS Subcommittee that allows for the necessary investment in NIH and other agencies that promote the health of our nation, and to work expeditiously to complete FY 2023 appropriations in a timely manner. Our nation's health depends on it.

XX Signatories as of DATE

⁵ Loscalzo, J. The NIH Budget and the Future of Biomedical Research. *N Engl J Med*. 2006;354(16), 1665-1667.
doi.org/10.1056/NEJMp068050

⁶ Heinig, S. J., Krakower, J. Y., Dickler, H. B., & Korn, D. Sustaining the Engine of U.S. Biomedical Discovery. *New England Journal of Medicine*. 2007,357(10), 1042-1047. [doi:10.1056/nejmsb071774](https://doi.org/10.1056/nejmsb071774)

⁷ Senate Committee on Appropriations. (2016 April). *Hearing on FY2017 National Institutes of Health Budget Request* [Video]. <https://www.appropriations.senate.gov/hearings/hearing-on-fy2017-national-institutes-of-health-budget-request>

⁸ Augustine, N., & Lane, N., et al. (2020). (rep.). *The Perils of Complacency America at a Tipping Point in Science & Engineering* (pp. 1–55). Cambridge, MA: American Academy of Arts and Sciences.
<https://www.amacad.org/publication/perils-of-complacency>

⁹ Science & Technology Action Committee. (2022 January). *Briefing Paper: A Roadmap for Investment in Science and Technology*. <https://sciencetechaction.org/news-item/white-paper-a-roadmap-for-investment-in-science-and-technology/>