



## THE AD HOC GROUP FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

### *The Ad Hoc Group Fiscal Year 2024 Recommendation*

The **XXX** 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, and generates additional high quality jobs in communities nationwide.<sup>i</sup>

**For fiscal year (FY) 2024, the Ad Hoc Group recommends at least \$50.924 billion for NIH's foundational work, a \$3.465 billion increase over the comparable FY 2023 program level, which would allow NIH's base budget to keep pace with the biomedical research and development price index (BRDPI) and allow meaningful growth of 5%.**

As the world's premier public funder of medical research, the NIH plays an important role in our nation's international leadership, and robust annual growth in support for NIH is key not only to improving people's health but also to maintaining our competitiveness in the global economy. Strong growth above BRDPI for the NIH provides critical support for additional research across the agency's diverse areas of study, conducted nationwide and through the NIH's 27 individual Institutes and Centers. Over the years, distinguished leaders and experts in medical research have recommended sustained real growth for the NIH through increases that exceed inflation by 4-6%.<sup>ii,iii,iv,v</sup> Several bipartisan members of Congress<sup>vi,vii</sup> have recommended restoring federal research and development (R&D) investments to 2% of U.S. gross domestic product. In addition, the Science & Technology Action Committee also estimated that the U.S. should at least double its R&D investment by 2026 in order to remain a global competitor in science, technology, engineering, and math.<sup>viii</sup> The Ad Hoc Group's FY 2024 recommendation would represent a step forward toward these objectives by expanding the NIH's capacity to make tangible progress against the wide range of diseases and conditions facing families and communities nationwide.

In FY 2023, Congress authorized the newly established Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H) as an autonomous agency within the NIH with \$1.5 billion to advance ARPA-H's unique focus on "high potential, high impact" research beyond what is traditionally supported by the NIH. In addition to the Ad Hoc Group's FY 2024 recommendation of at least \$50.924 billion for NIH's base budget, many of our organizations also have been engaging ARPA-H and separately support renewing the ARPA-H investment in FY 2024. As this new entity ramps up its work in targeted research areas and its focus on accelerating the development of commercial products, our broad-based, national community of diverse stakeholders is unanimous in emphasizing that for ARPA-H to be maximally successful, any

funding for ARPA-H should supplement, rather than supplant, the essential foundational investment in the NIH.

We urge lawmakers to continue to support patients and 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 2024 appropriations in a timely manner. Our nation's health depends on it.

### **XXX** Signatories as of DATE

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- <sup>i</sup> 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](https://unitedformedicalresearch.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/UMR_NIHs-Role-in-Sustaining-the-U.S.-Economy-FY21.pdf). Accessed March 31, 2022.
- <sup>ii</sup> 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](https://doi.org/10.1056/NEJMp068050)
- <sup>iii</sup> 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)
- <sup>iv</sup> 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>
- <sup>v</sup> 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>
- <sup>vi</sup> 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/>
- <sup>vii</sup> 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>
- <sup>viii</sup> Science and 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/>