

May 13, 2015

The Honorable Fred Upton  
Chairman  
Committee on Energy & Commerce  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Energy & Commerce  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Joe Pitts  
Chairman  
Committee on Energy & Commerce  
Subcommittee on Health  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Gene Green  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Energy & Commerce  
Subcommittee on Health  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Diana DeGette  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Energy & Commerce  
Subcommittee on Oversight & Investigation  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Upton and Pitts and Ranking Members Pallone, Green, and DeGette,

As a community committed to medical progress, we commend you for including in the 21st Century Cures Act an additional \$10 billion in funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) over five years.

Our values as a nation do not permit complacency in the face of threats to American health and safety. Yet, we appear resigned to walking – rather than running – toward previously unimagined solutions for diseases and disabilities that rob Americans of time, independence, and hope. The undersigned organizations applaud your efforts to ensure that we as a nation recalibrate, in part by boosting NIH funding.

In 2014, the success rate for new NIH grants was less than 16 percent. When only 1 in 6 proposals receive funding, the consequences extend beyond slower medical progress today. Rates like this discourage young people from entering the medical research field, jeopardizing progress going forward. Peer nations – China and other Asian nations in particular – are ramping up their R&D spending, as our Nation pulls back on ours.

The deliberative process you have undertaken to arrive at the Innovation Fund has helped clarify the issue: We are sustaining our research enterprise with 20th century resources in the face of 21st century opportunities and challenges. As a result, extraordinarily promising leads against both prevalent and rare diseases and disabilities are languishing. This is a human tragedy and a fiscal mistake; we must stop these health threats, not acquiesce to them.

The mandatory funding the Innovation Fund provides, coupled with meaningful year over year growth in the Institutes' baseline budget, will make a profoundly positive difference in the discovery landscape; pushing the boundaries of knowledge wider to reveal new targets for the development and delivery of transformative drugs, biologics and medical devices. We urge you to continue to champion the NIH

Innovation Fund as the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures Act moves through the legislative process and until it is signed into law.

Thank you again for your leadership, vision and determination to speed medical progress. It is a privilege to participate in this effort.

Sincerely,

Research!America

5p- Society, Cri du Chat Syndrome Support Group

Academy of Radiology Research

Addario Lung Cancer Foundation

AdvaMed (The Advanced Medical Technology Association)

Albert Einstein College of Medicine

Alliance for Academic Internal Medicine (AAIM)

Alliance for Aging Research

Alliance for Lupus Research

Alström Syndrome International

American Academy of Neurology

American Academy of Nursing

American Academy of Pediatrics

American Academy of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation

American Association for Cancer Research

American Association of Anatomists

American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy

American Association of Public Health Dentistry

American Autoimmune Related Diseases Association, (AARDA)

American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network

American Cleft Palate-Craniofacial Association

American College of Cardiology

American College of Neuropsychopharmacology

American College of Sports Medicine

American Dental Education Association

American Diabetes Association

American Foundation for the Blind (AFB)

American Geriatrics Society

American Heart Association

American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering (AIMBE)

American Lung Association

American Medical Association

American Medical Rehabilitation Providers Association (AMRPA)

American Multiple Endocrine Neoplasia Support

American Pain Society

American Psychiatric Association

American Society for Bone and Mineral Research  
American Society for Investigative Pathology  
American Society of Nephrology  
Angioma Alliance  
Aplastic Anemia & MDS International Foundation  
Association for Clinical and Translational Science  
Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology  
Association of Academic Health Centers  
Association of Academic Physiatrists  
Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges  
Association of Anatomy Cell Biology and Neurobiology Chairpersons  
Association of Independent Research Institutes  
Association of Medical School Microbiology and Immunology Chairs  
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU)  
Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America (AAFA)  
AXYS  
Biophysical Society  
Boston University School of Medicine  
Brain & Behavior Research Foundation  
Brain Injury Association of America  
Brigham and Women's Hospital  
Burrill LLC  
Carcinoid Cancer Foundation  
Child Neurology Society  
Children's Cardiomyopathy Foundation  
Children's Healthcare of Atlanta  
Children's Hospital Medical Center of Akron  
Children's Sickle Cell Foundation, Inc.  
Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation  
Cleft Palate Foundation  
Cleveland State University  
Coalition for Clinical and Translational Science  
Conference of Boston Teaching Hospitals  
Congenital Hyperinsulinism International  
CURE (Connecticut United for Research Excellence)  
Cure HHT  
Cystinosis Research Network  
Danaher Corporation  
debra of America  
Drexel University  
EB Research Partnership  
ELSEVIER  
Emory University School of Medicine

EveryLife Foundation for Rare Diseases  
*FasterCures*  
Fight Colorectal Cancer  
Foundation for Ichthyosis & Related Skin Types, Inc.  
Foundation for Prader-Willi Research  
Friedreich's Ataxia Research Alliance (FARA)  
Gates Center for Regenerative Medicine  
Genetic Alliance  
Global Health Council  
Hannah's Hope Fund  
Harvard School of Dental Medicine  
HHT Foundation International  
HIV Medicine Association  
Howard University College of Dentistry  
HudsonAlpha Institute for Biotechnology  
Infectious Diseases Society of America  
Intercultural Cancer Caucus  
International Pemphigus & Pemphigoid Foundation  
International WAGR Syndrome Association  
Johns Hopkins University  
Kalliat T Valsaraj, Ph.D., BCES on behalf of Louisiana State University  
Kennedy Krieger Institute  
Keystone Symposia on Molecular & Cellular Biology  
Kidney Cancer Association  
Kids V Cancer  
Life Raft Group  
Los Angeles BioMedical Research Institute at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center (LA BioMed)  
Lovelace Respiratory Research Institute (LRRRI)  
LUNGEvity Foundation  
Lupus Foundation of America  
March of Dimes  
Massachusetts General Hospital  
Mayo Clinic  
McLaughlin Research Institute for Biomedical Sciences  
M-CM Network  
MLD Foundation  
Montefiore Medical Center  
Muscular Dystrophy Association  
NARRTC  
National Alliance for Eye and Vision Research  
National Alopecia Areata Foundation  
National Disease Research Interchange (NDRI)

National Foundation for Infectious Diseases  
National Multiple Sclerosis Society  
National Tay-Sachs & Allied Diseases Association, Inc. (NTSAD)  
National Vulvodynia Association  
NBIA Disorders Association  
New England Regional Genetics Group (NERGG)  
New York Blood Center  
Norris Cotton Cancer Center at Dartmouth  
North American Vascular Biology Organization  
Northwest Association for Biomedical Research  
Oral Health America  
Pachyonychia Congenita Project  
Parkinson's Action Network  
Partners HealthCare  
Penn State College of Medicine  
Pennsylvania Society for Biomedical Research  
Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania  
Phelan-McDermid Syndrome Foundation  
Preeclampsia Foundation  
Prevent Cancer Foundation  
Prostate Cancer Foundation  
PSC Partners Seeking a Cure  
PTEN World  
Pulmonary Fibrosis Advocates  
PXE International  
RASopathies Network USA  
Science Futures LLC  
Siemens Healthcare  
Society for Social Work and Research  
Stanford University  
Stickler Involved People  
Sudden Arrhythmia Death Syndromes (SADS) Foundation  
Susan G. Komen  
The Albert and Mary Lasker Foundation  
The American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene  
The Clinical Research Forum  
The Dempster Family Foundation  
The Heart Rhythm Society  
The Hermansky-Pudlak Syndrome Network  
The Progeria Research Foundation  
The Rockefeller University  
The Spastic Paraplegia Foundation  
The Texas Society for Biomedical Research

The University at Buffalo  
The University of Alabama at Birmingham  
The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio  
The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center  
The Wistar Institute  
Tufts University  
UMass Medical School  
United for Medical Research  
United Leukodystrophy Foundation  
United Spinal Association  
University of Chicago Medical Center  
University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus  
University of Colorado Boulder  
University of Illinois at Chicago  
University of Maryland School of Medicine  
University of Nevada School of Medicine  
University of Texas Medical Branch - Galveston  
University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center  
US Pain Foundation  
Usher 1F Collaborative, Inc.  
Weill Cornell Medical College  
Yale School of Medicine  
Yerkes National Primate Research Center  
ZERO - The End of Prostate Cancer