

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 21st 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