For Immediate Release:

AAMC, AAU and APLU Praise President Obama for Increased NIH Funding

Washington, D.C., Feb. 1, 2010—The AAMC (Association of American Medical Colleges), the Association of American Universities (AAU), and the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (A·P·L·U) today commended President Obama for his proposal to increase funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to $32 billion in FY 2011.

“Boosting the NIH’s funding to a level that keeps pace with biomedical inflation recognizes the need for continued, predictable growth in this nation’s medical research enterprise,” said AAMC President and CEO Darrell G. Kirch, M.D. “At a time when we face extraordinary fiscal challenges, the president’s commitment to medical research is a wise investment that will yield long-term benefits for our nation’s health.”

“The administration’s 3.2 percent, $1 billion increase for the NIH is the largest proposed dollar and percentage increase for biomedical research in eight years, not including last year’s Recovery Act funding,” commented AAU President Robert M. Berdahl. “Today’s opportunities in medical research, supported by the NIH, merit even greater funding, but, given our large budget deficits and the top-line freeze in domestic discretionary spending, this request for the NIH confirms the administration’s strong commitment to sustaining our nation’s biomedical research capacity.”

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“In these tight fiscal times, President Obama’s recommendation to boost biomedical research funding by adding $1 billion to the National Institutes of Health budget, while freezing most domestic spending, is the right investment for the future,” stated A·P·L·U President Peter McPherson. “Prudent investment in medical research leads to new treatments and cures as well as improved quality of care. These breakthroughs lead to new products and a better quality of life for all.”

As President Obama noted in his State of the Union address, “We need to encourage American innovation.” Sustaining the nation’s investment in medical research will continue to drive the scientific innovation that is transforming the practice of medicine. The increased funding for the NIH will benefit all Americans by preventing, treating, and reducing disease and disability, and will contribute to our nation’s economic strength by creating skilled and high-paying jobs, new products and industries, and improved technologies.

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The Association of American Medical Colleges (www.aamc.org) is a not-for-profit association representing all 131 accredited U.S. and 17 accredited Canadian medical schools; nearly 400 major teaching hospitals and health systems, including 68 Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers; and nearly 90 academic and scientific societies. Through these institutions and organizations, the AAMC represents 128,000 faculty members, 75,000 medical students, and 110,000 resident physicians.

The Association of American Universities (www.aau.edu) is an association of 62 leading public and private research universities in the United States and Canada organized to develop and implement effective national and institutional policies supporting research and scholarship, graduate, professional, and undergraduate education, and public service in research universities. AAU universities award over one-half of all U.S. doctoral degrees and 55 percent of those in the sciences and engineering.

Founded in 1887, the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (A·P·L·U) (www.aplu.org) is an association of public research universities, land-grant institutions, and many state public university systems. A·P·L·U member campuses enroll more than 3.5 million undergraduate and 1.1 million graduate students, employ more than 645,000 faculty members, and conduct nearly two-thirds of all academic research, totaling more than $34 billion annually. As the nation’s oldest higher education association, A·P·L·U is dedicated to excellence in learning, discovery and engagement.