The Honorable Patty Murray Chair Budget Committee United States Senate Washington, DC 20510 The Honorable Paul Ryan Chair Budget Committee United States House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Murray and Chairman Ryan:

The undersigned organizations and institutions, which represent patients, scientists, health care providers, universities, and industry, are gravely concerned about the impact of continued cuts, including sequestration, on medical research supported by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and the subsequent negative consequences for the health of all Americans. We respectfully urge Congress and the Administration to work together on a responsible FY 2014 budget agreement that replaces sequestration with a balanced plan that recognizes the significant cuts already made to discretionary programs, preserves the nation's investment in medical research, and protects the health of the American people.

NIH Director Francis Collins, M.D., Ph.D., has said the nation is on the cusp of benefiting from "unprecedented scientific opportunity," and that "we've never had a better chance to make rapid progress in preventing, diagnosing, and curing human disease." However, instead of investing more in medical research, our nation's commitment to medical research has continued to shrink to a point where we are sacrificing real opportunities for discovery of new innovations and medical advances.

Sequestration resulted in a \$1.5 billion reduction in funding for NIH in FY 2013. As a result, NIH estimates that it funded 650 fewer competitive research project grants, resulting in a historically low success rate of 17 percent. Dr. Collins has summed up the repercussions of those numbers by saying, "I can't say which of those grants would have led to the next breakthrough, or which investigator would be a Nobel Prize winner 20 years from now." Moreover, sequestration's cuts are following a decade where NIH has lost nearly one-fifth of its purchasing power after inflation, further threatening our nation's position as the world leader in research and discovery.

In an interview in The Washington Post, Dr. Collins said that the budget cuts are delaying innovation and resulting in more American lives being lost. "When you're talking about developing cures, speed matters," he said. Among the critical projects that have lost resources is the effort to develop a universal flu vaccine that scientists hope might prevent pandemics.

As another example, the Framingham Heart Study, which for more than 60 years has produced a wellspring of information that has led to the identification of the major risk factors of cardiovascular disease and dramatic reductions in the death rates for heart disease and stroke, will lose \$4 million, or 40 percent, of its funding. This cut will result in the loss of clinical and

administrative staff, reductions in clinic exams and lab operations, and a considerable scale-back of the scope of research, all of which will diminish the ability to identify new risk factors such as genetic factors, for cardiovascular disease.

Cuts in NIH funding also are negatively affecting the next generation of scientists. In a recent survey conducted by the Association of American Medical Colleges, nearly two-thirds of the Ph.D. programs that responded reported that they have decreased or are anticipating decreasing the size of their programs and nearly one in five M.D.-Ph.D. programs indicated a decrease or anticipated decrease in students in the coming year.

If we are to address the health challenges of an aging and increasingly diverse population, and remain a vibrant force in the global economy, America needs more investment in medical research, not less. We respectfully urge Congress and the Administration to work together on a responsible FY 2014 budget that replaces sequestration with a balanced plan that recognizes the significant cuts already made to discretionary programs, preserves the nation's investment in medical research, and protects the health of the American people.

Sincerely,

Academic Pediatric Association

Academy of Radiology Research

Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research

Alliance for Aging Research

American Academy of Pediatrics

American Anthropological Association

American Association for Cancer Research

American Association for Dental Research

American Association for the Advancement of Science

American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases

American Association of Colleges of Nursing

American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine

American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy

American Association of Neurological Surgeons

American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons

American Brain Coalition

American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network

American Chemical Society

American College of Radiology (ACR)

American College of Rheumatology

American Diabetes Association

American Educational Research Association

American Federation For Aging Research

American Gastroenterological Association

American Heart Association

American Lung Association

American Osteopathic Association

American Pediatric Society

American Physiological Society

American Psychiatric Association

American Psychological Association

American Psychosomatic Society

American Society for Bone and Mineral Research

The American Society for Cell Biology

American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy

American Society for Investigative Pathology

American Society for Microbiology

American Society for Pharmacology & Experimental Therapeutics

American Society for Reproductive Medicine

American Society of Clinical Oncology

American Society of Hematology

American Society of Nephrology

American Society of Pediatric Hematology Oncology (ASPHO)

American Sociological Association

American Thoracic Society

American Urogynecologic Society

Americans for Medical Progress

Arthritis Foundation

Association for Psychological Science

Association for Research in Otolaryngology (ARO)

Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology

Association of Academic Health Sciences Libraries

Association of American Cancer Institutes

Association of American Geographers

Association of American Medical Colleges

Association of American Universities (AAU)

Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges

Association of Independent Research Institutes

Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs

Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU)

Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health (ASPPH)

AVAC: Global Advocacy for HIV Prevention

Baylor College of Medicine

Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center Boston

Biophysical Society

BioSTL (St. Louis)

Brigham and Women's Health Care

BrightFocus Foundation

Brown University

Cedars-Sinai Health System

The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

Coalition for Imaging and Bioengineering Research

Coalition for the Advancement of Health Through Behavioral and Social Sciences Research

Coalition for the Life Sciences

Coalition to Promote Research

Collaborative for Enhancing Diversity in Science

Columbia University

Conference of Boston Teaching Hospitals

Congress of Neurological Surgeons

Consortium of Academic Health Centers for Integrative Medicine

Consortium of Social Science Associations

Cooley's Anemia Foundation

Creighton University

Crohn's and Colitis Foundation

Cystic Fibrosis Foundation

Digestive Disease National Coalition

Digestive Health Alliance

Duke University Hospital

Duke University School of Medicine

Emory University

The Endocrine Society

Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB)

Federation of Associations in Behavioral & Brain Sciences

GBS/CIDP Foundation International

George Washington University Cancer Institute

Gerontological Society of America

Harvard University

Hepatitis B Foundation

HIV Medicine Association

Indiana University

Infectious Diseases Society of America

James Graham Brown Cancer Center at the University of Louisville

Jeffrey Modell Foundation

Joint Advocacy Coalition of the ACTS and CR Forum

Le Bonheur Children's Hospital

Life Technologies

Lupus Foundation of America

March of Dimes

Marfan Foundation

Massachusetts General Hospital

Massachusetts Neuropsychological Society

Mayo Clinic

McLean Hospital

Medical College of Wisconsin

Medical Library Association

Melanoma Research Alliance

Mesothelioma Applied Research Foundation

Michigan State University

National Alliance for Eye and Vision Research

National Alopecia Areata Foundation

National Fragile X Foundation

National Primate Research Centers

National Psoriasis Foundation

Norris Cotton Cancer Center at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center

NYU Langone Medical Center

Oregon Health & Science University

Pancreatic Cancer Action Network

Parkinson's Action Network

Partners Continuing Care and Spaulding Rehabilitation Network

Partners HealthCare

Penn Medicine

Penn State College of Medicine

Population Association of America/Association of Population Centers

The Psychonomic Society

Pulmonary Hypertension Association

Research!America

Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

Saint Francis Care

Saint Louis University

Scleroderma Foundation

Sjögren's Syndrome Foundation

Sleep Research Society

The Society for Industrial & Organizational Psychology (SIOP)

Society for Judgment and Decision Making

Society for Neuroscience

Society for Pediatric Research

Society for Research in Psychopathology

Society for Women's Health Research (SWHR)

Society of Behavioral Medicine

Society of Experimental Social Psychology

Society of Gynecologic Oncology

Society of Hospital Medicine

Stanford University School of Medicine

Temple University School of Medicine

Tulane University

UCLA

United for Medical Research

University at Buffalo

University of California Berkeley

University of California Irvine

University of California Davis

University of California Merced

University of California Riverside

University of California San Diego

University of California, San Francisco

University of California Santa Cruz

University of California System

University of California Santa Barbara

University of Central Florida

University of Cincinnati

University of Kentucky

University of Massachusetts Medical School

University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine

University of Rochester Medical Center

University of South Dakota Sanford School of Medicine

University of Texas System

University of Utah

University of Washington

U. S. Hereditary Angioedema Association

UNM Health Sciences Center

USAgainstAlzheimer's

UT MD Anderson Cancer Center

Washington University in St. Louis

The Wistar Institute