



THE AD HOC GROUP FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

For Immediate Release
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Ad Hoc Group Statement on House Passage of a CR Through Dec. 11

September 25, 2020 – *The Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research issued the following statement in response to House passage of the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2021 and Other Extensions Act (H.R. 8337), a continuing resolution (CR) that continues funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and other federal agencies, through Dec. 11, and extends the availability of funding for certain NIH multiyear grants:*

“The Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research appreciates that the U.S. House of Representatives approved a continuing resolution to continue government operations and avoid a government shutdown, and we look forward to the Senate following suit. We are grateful that the CR also gives the NIH targeted flexibility to preserve certain multiyear grants.

At the same time, we remain extremely concerned that funding for medical research supported by the NIH, the world’s premier biomedical research agency, remains in limbo despite ongoing challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Emergency funding for medical research supported by the NIH is urgently needed not only to support new efforts to understand SARS-CoV-2 infections and develop diagnostics, therapeutics, and vaccines, but also to support the entire research enterprise as it gradually resumes pre-pandemic efforts in a socially distanced laboratory environment. Without action, this pandemic will have long lasting effects even once the immediate crisis abates, given the delays it will cause for ongoing research and the chilling impact on the scientific workforce. Nearly 200 organizations representing patients, clinicians, scientists, educators, institutions, and industry [sent an August 6 letter](#) expressing strong support for at least \$15.5 billion in emergency funding for the NIH to address these concerns. We urge both chambers and the Administration to work expeditiously to enact this critical relief without further delay.

In addition to supplemental funding to address the impact of the COVID-19 crisis, we must ensure both prompt and meaningful investment in the NIH’s base budget, and we [recommend](#) an investment of \$44.7 billion in FY 2021. Congress has wisely provided five years of robust funding growth for NIH through regular appropriations. Now more than ever, continuous and timely support will be necessary to sustain this momentum, support early-stage investigators, and promote continued scientific and medical advancements to address the thousands of health challenges that patients and families across the country face every day.

The Ad Hoc Group urges lawmakers and the Administration to include much needed emergency funding for NIH in the next COVID-19 relief package and to complete a robust FY 2021 appropriation for the NIH as quickly as possible.”

The Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research is a coalition of over 330 patient and voluntary health groups, medical and scientific societies, academic and research organizations, and industry. The Ad Hoc Group has one mission: to enhance the federal investment in biomedical, behavioral, social, and population-based research by increasing the funding for the National Institutes of Health.