



THE AD HOC GROUP FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

For Immediate Release

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Ad Hoc Group Statement on President's FY 2020 Budget Proposal

March 11, 2019 – *The Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research issued the following statement in response to the proposed \$34.4 billion program level for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in the President's fiscal year (FY) 2020 budget request released March 11:*

The President's budget request for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) would decimate the nation's longstanding commitment to improving and saving lives through federal support for medical research. The President's proposal to cut funding for the NIH by nearly \$5 billion, more than 12 percent below current levels, would undermine progress on research to find treatments and cures for patients nationwide while threatening our narrowing competitive edge in an increasingly innovation-based international marketplace.

Thankfully, despite recent White House budget requests, lawmakers in Congress on both sides of the aisle have rallied together to appropriately boost funding for the NIH, allowing the agency to support and pursue breakthroughs in biomedical research. Patient advocates and researchers will once again work with Congress to continue the needed upward trajectory for NIH in FY 2020 and reject the proposed misguided funding levels that dismiss the value of biomedical research to the American people. In FY 2020, over 300 organizations and institutions in the Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research [recommend a funding level](#) of at least \$41.6 billion for NIH.

In contrast, the President's budget proposal demonstrates the devastating consequences of impractical discretionary spending caps. As Congress has in previous years, we urge lawmakers to enact swiftly a bipartisan budget agreement that raises the discretionary spending caps and enables a robust investment in NIH in FY 2020.

We must maintain the forward momentum that Congress has driven over the past four years. For the United States to enhance our pursuit of cures, renew our global leadership in science and technology, and strengthen our national security, our federal investment in medical research must reflect meaningful, reliable funding increases above inflation within the base NIH budget. The Ad Hoc Group looks forward to continuing to work with lawmakers to realize this vision and to ensure better health for patients in FY 2020 and beyond.

The Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research is a coalition of over 300 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.