



THE AD HOC GROUP FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

For Immediate Release
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Keeping “America First” Will Require Investment in NIH

March 16, 2017 – *The Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research issued the following statement in response to the President’s fiscal year (FY) 2018 budget blueprint released today.*

The Administration’s proposal to gut funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) by \$5.8 billion or nearly 20 percent below current levels would drastically slow progress on research to find treatments and cures for patients nationwide. Cuts to NIH of such unprecedented magnitude would affect every American, including patients, their families, researchers, and communities where NIH investment spurs economic growth.

As the President eloquently noted in his Joint Address to Congress last month, millions of Americans in every community await new or improved treatments and diagnostics for a wide range of diseases. Medical research supported by the NIH plays an irreplaceable role in achieving their hopes of a healthier future. For this reason, the investment in NIH has long been prioritized by leaders of both parties as a key responsibility for the federal government.

By supporting research at universities, medical schools, teaching hospitals, and other institutions across the country, NIH also has fueled local and regional economies by creating jobs and catalyzing new industries. For decades, the federal commitment to scientific discovery has strengthened our country’s competitiveness in a global market that is actively working to unseat the U.S. as the world’s leader in medical research. To keep “America First,” we must bolster, rather than undermine, the nation’s medical research capacity.

The Ad Hoc Group urges Congress to reject the inexplicable and impractical proposed cuts to NIH and to continue its tradition of investment in medical science. We look forward to working with lawmakers to finalize an FY 2017 spending package with \$34.1 billion for NIH – as approved nearly unanimously by the Senate Appropriations Committee in June 2016. We also urge Congress to continue this budget trajectory with a \$2 billion increase over FY 2017 for NIH in FY 2018, in addition to funds included in the 21st Century Cures Act for targeted initiatives. Delivering the promise of good health

to patients nationwide will require a commitment to nondefense discretionary spending like NIH-supported medical research.

The Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research is a coalition of more than 200 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.