



# United for Medical Research

February 28, 2014

Representative Harold Rogers  
Chair, Committee on Appropriations  
United States House of Representatives

Senator Barbara Mikulski  
Chair, Appropriations Committee  
United States Senate

Representative Nita Lowey  
Ranking Member, Committee on Appropriations  
United States House of Representatives

Senator Richard Shelby  
Ranking Member, Appropriations Committee  
United States Senate

Dear Chairs and Ranking Members:

As you consider appropriations subcommittee allocations for FY 2015, United for Medical Research (UMR), representing leading scientific research institutions and industries, and health and patient advocates, respectfully urges you to provide the Labor-Health and Human Services-Education and Related Agencies bill with a funding level that will allow a significant funding increase for the lifesaving medical research supported by the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

While the FY 2014 omnibus provided a welcome funding increase for NIH, the agency still remains \$1 billion below the FY 2012 funding level, and far below the level necessary to meet the unmatched need afforded by scientific opportunity and human health. This cut in funding comes after a decade of budgets that have not kept pace with inflation, resulting in more than a 20 percent decline in purchasing power. At the same time, global competition has intensified. China, Germany, India, Singapore, Sweden, the United Kingdom and others recognize that life sciences represents a high-wage, high growth industry and actively seek to wrest life sciences leadership from the United States. UMR is gravely concerned that, if not reversed, such a cut will have long-term and devastating consequences for maintaining our competitive edge as a global leader in medical research.

U.S. medical research provides a beacon of hope for Americans who suffer from diseases and is a major driver of economic growth. The United States has stood firmly at the forefront of the research revolution, with leadership built upon a solid federal commitment to robust and sustained investment in biomedical research through NIH. Public investment in research has laid the foundation for the development of many breakthroughs in drugs and therapies—from personalized gene therapies to synthetic skin to cures for certain types of cancer. And it has given rise to an American-led, globally competitive life sciences industry. This industry supports more than seven million high-wage American jobs and contributes \$69 billion annually to U.S. gross domestic product.

As you face the difficult decisions of how to allocate limited dollars in the FY 2015 appropriations process, UMR urges you to close the innovation deficit by upholding NIH as a critical investment and bipartisan priority that improves the health and economic prosperity of the nation.

Sincerely,

United for Medical Research