

# United for Medical Research



April 10, 2014

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## UMR MEMBERS

American Association  
for Cancer Research  
American Cancer Society  
Cancer Action Network  
American Diabetes Association  
American Heart Association  
Association of American  
Universities  
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Land-grant Universities  
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Technology  
Melanoma Research Alliance  
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Network  
PhRMA  
Research!America  
Stanford University  
The Endocrine Society  
Thermo Fisher Scientific  
University of Pennsylvania  
University of Southern  
California  
Vanderbilt University  
Washington University  
in St. Louis

The Honorable Anna G. Eshoo  
United States House of Representatives  
214 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Eshoo:

United for Medical Research (UMR) offers our support for the American HEALS Act and the funding it provides for lifesaving medical research supported by the National Institutes of Health (NIH). As a coalition of leading research institutions, patient and health advocates, scientific organizations, and private industry, united in seeking steady increases in funding for NIH, we applaud your leadership in pursuit of a stable funding source for this critical agency.

As the world's premier biomedical research agency, NIH is at the nexus of the medical innovation ecosystem, which includes 300,000 researchers supported at nearly 3,000 institutions nationwide. NIH-funded discoveries have led to astounding improvements in human health and serve as a beacon of hope for millions of patients suffering from devastating diseases and injuries. Moreover, NIH is an economic engine that has given rise to an American-led, globally competitive life science industry, which supports more than seven million high-wage American jobs and contributes \$69 billion annually to the U.S. gross domestic product.

Unfortunately, following a decade of budgets that have failed to keep pace with inflation and an additional cut of \$1.5 billion due to sequestration, which have resulted in a more than 20 percent loss in purchasing power, we are at serious risk of losing our life science preeminence and squandering our most promising scientific opportunities. Global competition is intensifying, as China, Germany, India, Singapore, Sweden, the United Kingdom and others recognize that life sciences represents a high growth industry and actively seek to wrest life sciences leadership from the United States. This funding trend is creating an innovation deficit, and UMR is gravely concerned that if it is not reversed, this deficit will have long-term and devastating consequences for maintaining our competitive edge as the global leader in medical research.

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Despite this grim context, it is an extraordinarily exciting time for biomedical research. Scientists are making advances at an unprecedented pace, and there is strong, vocal support for NIH from both sides of the political spectrum and the American public. UMR believes it is time to capitalize on these opportunities and consider how to best preserve and expand our investment in medical research even in fiscally challenging times. We hope that the American HEALS Act is a pivotal first step in identifying a sustainable funding pathway for NIH.

Sincerely,

United for Medical Research