

# United for Medical Research



February 22, 2016

Senator Thad Cochran  
Chair, Appropriations Committee  
United States Senate

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

Senator Barbara Mikulski  
Vice Chair, Appropriations Committee  
United States Senate

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

Dear Chairmen Cochran and Rogers and Ranking Members Mikulski and Lowey:

On behalf of United for Medical Research (UMR), which represents leading scientific research institutions and industries, and health and patient advocates, we thank you for your unwavering support of biomedical research and the significant boost for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) included in the FY16 omnibus bill. As you consider subcommittee allocations for FY 2017, we urge you to again enable strong funding for the NIH through your allocation for the Labor-Health and Human Services-Education and Related Agencies appropriations bill.

**Consistently strong annual funding levels are essential if the NIH is to catch up from more than a decade of underfunding and keep up with public health needs and the opportunities of biomedical research. UMR urges you to include an increase of at least \$2.4 billion over FY 2016 funding, or at least \$34.5 billion, for the NIH.**

Research funded by the NIH saves lives, improves the health of all Americans, and supports nearly \$60 billion annually in economic activity. This is why, after more than a decade of stagnant funding, there is a growing bipartisan consensus that investing in NIH is good for America. With other countries, including China, Germany, India, Singapore, Sweden, and the United Kingdom, actively working to increase their investments in life sciences, UMR is gravely concerned that, if the United States does not catch up and keep up with NIH funding, we will lose our competitive edge as a global leader in medical research and the health and economic benefits that come from that leadership.

As you face the difficult decisions of how to allocate limited dollars in the FY 2017 appropriations process, UMR urges you to continue the progress started last year and again provide strong support for the important work of the NIH.

Sincerely,

Tim Fenton  
Vice President, Global Government Relations  
Thermo Fisher Scientific  
United for Medical Research co-President

Jennifer Poulakidas  
Vice President, Congressional and Governmental Affairs  
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities  
United for Medical Research co-President

David Pugach  
Director, Federal Relations  
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, Inc.  
United for Medical Research co-President