

United for Medical Research

November 29, 2016

The Honorable Lamar Alexander
Chairman
Senate HELP Committee

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Senate HELP Committee

The Honorable Fred Upton
Chairman
House Energy & Commerce Committee

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Ranking Member
House Energy & Commerce Committee

Dear Chairmen Alexander and Upton, and Ranking Members Murray and Pallone:

United for Medical Research (UMR) is very pleased to see the House and Senate agreement on a medical innovation package that includes significant funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Thank you for your unwavering commitment to seeing this legislation through to passage.

The 21st Century Cures Act's inclusion of NIH funding is an essential down payment on the longer term goal of ensuring that the budget for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) catches up from the past decade of under-funding and keeps up with future scientific and public health needs and opportunities.

Few issues before Congress have received such a high level of bipartisan and bicameral support. NIH research fuels the pipeline of discovery and innovation necessary to prevent, treat and cure our most vexing diseases. NIH research also has a significant economic impact, supporting more than 350,000 jobs across the United States and contributing some \$60 billion annually in economic activity.

UMR congratulates you on this hard earned agreement, and our coalition will continue our efforts to advocate on behalf of this bill – and on behalf of patients, families and medical research – through to its passage.

Sincerely,

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

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

Lizbet Borouhgs
Associate Vice President for Federal Relations
Association of American Universities
Secretary, United for Medical Research

cc: Speaker Paul Ryan
Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi
Majority Leader Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader Harry Reid