

United for Medical Research



June 03, 2014

UMR MEMBERS

American Association
for Cancer Research
American Cancer Society
Cancer Action Network
American Diabetes Association
American Heart Association
Association of American
Universities
Association of Public and
Land-grant Universities
BD
Biotechnology Industry
Organization
Boston University
Coming
FasterCures
Harvard University
Johns Hopkins University
Massachusetts Institute of
Technology
Melanoma Research Alliance
Northwestern University
Pancreatic Cancer Action
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 Tom Harkin
U.S. Senator
731 Hart Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Harkin:

In advance of the House Labor, Health and Human Services, Education Subcommittee mark-up of the Fiscal Year 2015 spending bill United for Medical Research (UMR), a coalition of leading research institutions, patient and health advocates, and private industry joined together in support of medical research funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), writes to ask that you support \$32 billion in overall funding for NIH. This is the same level supported by a bipartisan group of 57 senators in their recent letter to the chairman and ranking member.

The extraordinary research NIH funds yields lifesaving benefits and offers hope to millions suffering from disease. NIH also plays a critical role in sustaining the U.S. economy, supporting more than 405,000 jobs and generating over \$58 billion in nationwide economic output in 2013 alone. And NIH-funded research lays the groundwork for private sector medical innovation, a business sector crucial to our economy and America's continued leadership in the bioscience arena. Unfortunately, the combination of a decade of flat-funding followed by a \$1.6 billion cut due to sequestration, at the same time that other countries are substantially increasing their investments in biomedical research, is creating an innovation deficit. This threatens both our ability to improve our nation's health and our worldwide leadership in medical research.

UMR urges robust increased funding for NIH in FY2015 to reverse the negative trajectory of recent funding patterns and to ensure continued success in our quest for new treatments and cures for our most devastating diseases. We look forward to working with you to help close the innovation deficit and reinvigorate our investment in the life sciences.

Sincerely,

United for Medical Research