

# United for Medical Research



February 27, 2019

## UMR Members

AdvaMed  
Alzheimer's Association  
American Association for the Advancement of Science  
American Cancer Society  
Cancer Action Network  
American Heart Association  
Association of American Universities  
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities  
BD  
Biotechnology Industry Organization  
Boston University  
Corning  
Harvard University  
John Hopkins University  
Johnson & Johnson  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Northwestern University  
PhRMA  
Research!America  
Stanford University  
Thermo Fisher Scientific  
University of Pennsylvania  
Vanderbilt University  
Vanderbilt University Medical Center  
Washington University in St. Louis

Honorable Mitch McConnell  
U.S. Senate Majority Leader  
Washington, DC 20510

Honorable John Thune  
U.S. Senate Republican Whip  
Washington, DC 20510

Honorable Chuck Schumer  
U.S. Senate Minority Leader  
Washington, DC 20510

Honorable Richard Durbin  
U.S. Senate Democratic Whip  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Leaders McConnell and Schumer, and Whips Thune and Durbin:

On behalf of United for Medical Research (UMR), which represents leading scientific research institutions and industries, and patient and health advocates, we thank you for your continued support of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and urge you to enact a new budget agreement that would avert steep cuts in non-defense discretionary spending dictated by the 2011 Budget Control Act.

Fortunately for the past seven years, Congress has recognized how devastating the BCA cuts would be and has negotiated bipartisan agreements to provide critical funding for our nation's priorities. And thanks to Congress's commitment to the NIH, amazing medical advances are happening every day, touching the lives of many children and adults through NIH's discovery-driven research. These stories of triumph over disease are providing hope to millions of patients whose diseases and conditions await the next generation of treatments or cures. For the past four years, there has been a strong bipartisan effort in Congress to increase the NIH budget and ensure that the United States is investing properly in the health of its citizens and maintaining its competitive edge as a global leader in medical research. Pulling back now would harm this essential momentum.

NIH-funded research is an engine for medical and economic progress, and produces an exceptionally strong return on investment. Last year alone, NIH-funded research supported 433,000 jobs and \$74 billion in economic activity across the United States. Congress must renew its bipartisan commitment to this national treasure so we can continue advancements in research that will lead to cures and treatments for deadly diseases like cancer, heart disease, Alzheimer's and ALS.

To safeguard our nation's most important institutions, and to help keep America safe, healthy and competitive, we believe it's essential that Congress raise the budget caps equally between non-defense and defense programs.

UMR greatly appreciates your support over the last four years of placing NIH on a more sustainable growth path. Enacting a budget deal that raises the sequestration caps will ensure the gains from that critical investment continue to flourish.

Sincerely,

Alex Currie

Senior Director of Federal Relations, Vanderbilt University Medical Center  
President, United for Medical Research

Caroline Powers

Director, Federal Relations, American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network  
Secretary, United for Medical Research

Chol Pak

Director, Federal Government Relations, Thermo Fisher Scientific  
Treasurer, United for Medical Research

Danny Ly

Director, Public Policy & Government Relations, BD (Becton, Dickinson and Company)  
Board Member, United for Medical Research

Christopher Austin

Associate Director, Federal Affairs, Johns Hopkins University & Medicine  
Board Member, United for Medical Research

cc: Senate Appropriations Chairman Richard Shelby  
Senate Appropriations Ranking Member Patrick Leahy  
Senate Appropriations Labor-HHS Subcommittee Chairman Roy Blunt  
Senate Appropriations Labor-HHS Subcommittee Ranking Member Patty Murray