



January 7, 2022

The Honorable Shalanda Young
Acting Director
Office of Management and Budget
725 17th Street NW
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Acting Director Young:

On behalf of United for Medical Research (UMR), which represents leading scientific research institutions and industries, and health and patient advocates, we want to express our deep gratitude for the Biden Administration's support of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and urge you to include an increase of at least \$3 billion to NIH's base budget in the FY 2023 President's Budget Request.

Even before the COVID-19 pandemic struck, NIH was already in overdrive working on cures and treatments for deadly diseases like cancer, Alzheimer's, heart disease, diabetes and ALS. And now the world's premier health agency is providing critical leadership in the ongoing effort to research and better prevent and treat COVID-19.

In 2023, NIH will require substantial resources to not only meet the ongoing needs for pandemic research, but to continue life-saving work being done to treat and cure our other most vexing diseases. While funding for NIH has increased over the last several years with strong bipartisan support, the agency continues to face intense pressure and expectations to improve America's health across the entire spectrum of diseases and conditions.

In addition to saving lives, improving health and offering hope to people affected by disease, NIH is also a major catalyst for local economies. According to a [report](#) by UMR, research funding supported 536,338 jobs and drove \$91.35 billion in economic activity in fiscal year 2020. More than 80 percent of NIH's annual budget is awarded in grants that go to every state to support high quality jobs.

Moreover, increased funding for NIH research that contributes to the prevention, treatment and cure of our most chronic and costly diseases would have an enormous impact on federal spending. Each year the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services spends over \$35 billion to care for people with end-stage renal disease. Nearly one in every five Medicare dollars is spent on individuals with Alzheimer's disease or other forms of dementia. Alzheimer's is the sixth-leading cause of death in the United States and the only cause of death among the top 10 that cannot be prevented, cured or even slowed. It also has been estimated that a one percent reduction in deaths from cancer or heart disease would be worth nearly \$500 billion to the U.S. economy.

UMR Members

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

UMR members are proud to partner with the NIH on life-saving treatments and cures and know how integral it is to the health of all Americans. UMR members are currently engaged in the fight against COVID-19 and have been supporting many advancements including treatments and vaccines, diagnostics, at-home COVID-19 testing, protein mapping modifications, clinical trials, and more.

Thank you again for your leadership and commitment to making a strong NIH a national priority. By requesting at least a \$3 billion increase in NIH's budget, it would help ensure the agency's continued success and its ability to safeguard the country from another health emergency. There is no investment more powerful or important than one that protects the nation's health and provides hope to patients and families.

Sincerely,

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Board Member, United for Medical Research

Rita Livadas
Director, Global Public Health, Life Sciences, BD
Board Member, United for Medical Research