



December 6, 2021

Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Senate Majority Leader  
Washington, DC 20510

Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Senate Minority Leader  
Washington, DC 20510

Honorable Richard Durbin  
Senate Democratic Whip  
Washington, DC 20510

Honorable John Thune  
Senate Republican Whip  
Washington, DC 20510

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

On behalf of United for Medical Research (UMR), which represents leading scientific research institutions, industries and patient advocates, we are counting on your proven leadership to help get Congress beyond the continuing resolution (CR) for Fiscal Year 2022 appropriations and ensure the National Institutes of Health (NIH) remains on a strong and sustainable funding path. A CR well into 2022 would stall the incredible gains by NIH and the biomedical research community, including research on COVID-19 vaccines, Alzheimer’s, cancer, heart disease, and more.

For the past several years, a strong bipartisan effort in Congress to increase the NIH budget has ensured 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. Thanks to your commitment and leadership, NIH was in a strong position to quickly respond to the coronavirus pandemic. The agency continues to achieve great success with research institutions across the country in responding to the latest COVID-19 challenges.

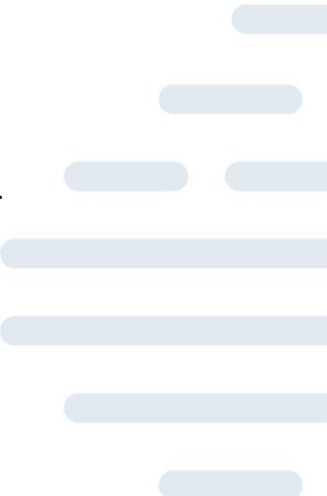
Pulling back now would harm this critical momentum and create uncertainty for life-saving research currently underway. Completing fiscal year 2022 funding for NIH by February 18 is critically important to keeping America safe and healthy now and in the future.

As you are keenly aware, it’s today’s research that prepares us for tomorrow’s biggest public health challenges. To underscore that fact, UMR has put together a series of one-page information sheets for Members and staff on why it’s essential to continue invest in medical research: [Responding to COVID-19](#); [Reducing the Human & Economic Toll of Disease](#); [Making Amazing Things Possible](#); and [Developing the Next Generation of Researchers](#).

Your support of NIH and its mission is more important than ever, and we need your leadership at this crucial time to move past the CR and pass strong, increased funding for NIH. There is not a more powerful or important investment than one that protects the nation’s health and provides hope to patients and families.

**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



We are most grateful for your longstanding support of NIH, and UMR is eager to partner with you in your efforts to achieve full fiscal year 2022 appropriations.

Sincerely,

Chol Pak  
Director, Federal Government Relations, Thermo Fisher Scientific  
President, United for Medical Research

Lizbet Boroughs  
Associate Vice President for Federal Relations, Association of American Universities  
Treasurer, United for Medical Research

Caitlin M. Leach  
Director of Federal Relations, Northwestern University  
Secretary, United for Medical Research

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

Rachel Conant  
Vice President, Federal Affairs, Alzheimer's Association  
Board Member, United for Medical Research

