

# United for Medical Research



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## 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

Corning

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

May 13, 2015

The Honorable Fred Upton  
Chairman  
Energy and Commerce Committee  
2183 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Upton,

United for Medical Research offers our strong support for the National Institutes of Health funding provisions included in the proposed 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures legislation. As a coalition of leading research institutions, patient and health advocates, and private industry, we endorse the bold move to increase NIH's annual authorization and create a new mandatory Innovation Fund of \$2 billion per year to further boost biomedical research above discretionary levels. This increase is in-line with our long-held priority of increasing funding for NIH in a manner that provides certainty and a path for growth.

We are profoundly grateful for your leadership and for the tremendous effort you and the House Energy and Commerce Committee made to develop meaningful and truly bipartisan legislation on NIH funding and policy. The funding boost will ensure the United States remains the world's medical innovation leader.

The scientific breakthroughs that take place across this nation with funding from NIH have raised life expectancy, improved the quality of life and lowered overall health care costs. And they amount to an economic engine that sustains American international competitiveness. Recently, as a result of flat NIH budgets, only one of every seven research grants proposed is funded, and the odds are even lower for promising young scientists. Each worthy-yet-unfunded grant represents a lost opportunity.

The great work you and your staff have done to address these critical national needs is inspiring, and the members of UMR are deeply appreciative. We look forward to continuing to work with you, the committee and others in Congress on this initiative to ensure that funding is broadly applied to the full scope of NIH research activities and that the strongest possible 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures bill is enacted into law.

Letter to Chairman Upton

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Sincerely,

Tim Fenton  
Senior Director  
Global Government Relations  
Thermo Fisher Scientific  
United for Medical Research co-President

Jennifer Poulakidas  
Vice President  
Government and Congressional Affairs  
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities  
United for Medical Research co-President

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

Cc: The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Members of the Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health