

May 6, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
S-230, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
S-221, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable John Thune  
Majority Whip  
United States Senate  
S-208, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Dick Durbin  
Minority Whip  
United States Senate  
S-321, the Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Leaders McConnell and Schumer and Senators Thune and Durbin:

We, the undersigned organizations, appreciate the Congressional response to the COVID-19 pandemic and its economic impact. We write to encourage you to provide at least \$2 billion in bridge funding in future Congressional COVID-19 relief packages to assure the stalled research supported by non-profit organizations, voluntary health associations, science societies, and foundations, can resume once researchers return to their labs.

We are deeply concerned about the economic consequences that the COVID-19 pandemic will have on America's research pipeline. The non-profit and voluntary health organization research community is a critical part of America's drug research and development pipeline. It is the fourth largest contributor for U.S. medical and health research and development expenditures, and funds thousands of early and mid-career scientists and researchers each year<sup>i</sup>. Collectively this sector of the research community invests at least \$6-7 billion each year to advance biomedical research and disease knowledge, translate biomedical research into novel therapies, and support early and mid-level scientists to ensure a robust scientific workforce<sup>ii</sup>.

The decreases in revenue that these organizations are experiencing as a direct result of the COVID-19 pandemic will significantly impact their ability to fund basic or clinical research and will hinder completion of ongoing research and clinical trials, effectively bringing innovation to a stand-still. Costs associated with bringing research back online are unbudgeted expenses and many organizations do not have the ability to cover these costs due to the economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. Researchers supported by these organizations often use this funding to build towards larger federal grants from the National Institutes of Health or other federal research agencies. We are concerned that a decrease in research funding from this community will force many researchers to abandon important research projects, including disease specific research, and will result in a gap of needed researchers for years to come.

In this time of extreme uncertainty, we believe Congress can provide vital support for the research occurring at America's non-profit, foundations, associations and voluntary health research community. We urge Congress to act swiftly to provide at least \$2 billion in emergency funding to support the research occurring through these organizations, who play such a critical role in advancing disease knowledge, expediting the development of novel therapies, and supporting America's broader research and scientific workforce.

Sincerely,

Accelerated Cure Project  
Alliance for Aging Research  
Alpha-1 Foundation  
ALS Association  
Alzheimer's Association  
American Academy of Neurology  
American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (AAPM&R)  
American Association of Neuromuscular & Electrodiagnostic Medicine  
American Autoimmune Related Diseases Association  
American Behcet's Disease Association. (ABDA)  
American Brain Coalition  
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network  
American College of Clinical Pharmacy  
American Diabetes Association  
American Foundation for Suicide Prevention  
American Heart Association  
American Institute for Cancer Research (AICR)  
American Liver Foundation  
American Lung Association  
American Parkinson Disease Association  
American Psychiatric Association  
American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics  
American Society for Radiation Oncology  
American Thoracic Society  
Anxiety and Depression Association of America  
Arthritis Foundation  
Association for Clinical and Translational Science  
Association of Black Cardiologists  
Association of University Professors of Neurology

Beyond Celiac  
Cancer Support Community  
Caregiver Action Network  
Celiac Disease Foundation  
Children's Cancer Cause  
Children's Cardiomyopathy Foundation  
Clinical Research Forum  
Coalition for Clinical and Translational Science  
Conquering CHD  
Consortium of Multiple Sclerosis Centers  
Cooley's Anemia Foundation  
Crohn's & Colitis Foundation  
CureSHANK  
Debbie's Dream Foundation: Curing Stomach Cancer  
Digestive Disease National Coalition  
Dystonia Advocacy Network  
Dystonia Medical Research Foundation  
Ear Community, Inc.  
Endocrine Society  
Epidermolysis Bullosa Research Partnership  
Epilepsy Foundation  
Fibrous Dysplasia Foundation  
Fight Colorectal Cancer  
FORCE: Facing Our Risk of Cancer Empowered  
Foundation for Sickle Cell Disease Research  
Friedreich's Ataxia Research Alliance (FARA)  
GBS|CIDP Foundation International  
GO2 Foundation for Lung Cancer  
Greater Tampa Bay Oral Health Coalition  
Hydrocephalus Association  
International Organization of MS Nurses  
International Pemphigus and Pemphigoid Foundation  
International Pemphigus Pemphigoid Foundation  
Interstitial Cystitis Association  
JDRF  
Jeffrey Modell Foundation  
KidneyCAN  
LUNGevity Foundation  
Lupus and Allied Diseases Association, Inc.  
Lupus Foundation of America  
Lupus Research Alliance

Lymphangiomatosis & Gorham's Disease Alliance  
Lymphatic Education & Research Network  
Mental Health America  
Mesothelioma Applied Research Foundation  
METAvivor  
MLD Foundation  
Movement Disorders Policy Coalition  
Muscular Dystrophy Association  
National Alliance on Mental Illness  
National Alopecia Areata Foundation  
National Ataxia Foundation  
National Cancer Registrars Association  
National Eczema Association  
National Health Council  
National Multiple Sclerosis Society  
National Organization for Tardive Dyskinesia  
National Organization of Rare Disorders  
National Pancreas Foundation  
National Psoriasis Foundation  
NephCure Kidney International  
Oncology Nursing Society  
Pancreatic Cancer Action Network  
Parkinson's Foundation  
Parkinson's Unity Walk  
Patient Services, Inc.  
Patrick Risha CTE Awareness Foundation  
Phelan-McDermid Syndrome Foundation  
Prevent Blindness  
Project Sleep  
Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation  
Pulmonary Hypertension Association  
Research!America  
Restless Legs Syndrome Foundation  
RetireSafe  
Scleroderma Foundation  
Sjögren's Foundation  
Sleep Research Society  
Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer  
Solve ME/CFS Initiative  
St. Baldrick's Foundation  
The Brain Donor Project

The Brain Recovery Project: Childhood Epilepsy Surgery  
Foundation  
The Marfan Foundation  
The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research  
The Oral Cancer Foundation  
The Parkinson Alliance  
The TMJ Association  
Triage Cancer  
U. S. COPD Coalition  
United Ostomy Associations of America  
US Hereditary Angioedema Association

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<sup>i</sup> Research America. U.S. Investments in Medical and Health Research and Development 2013 – 2018. [https://www.researchamerica.org/sites/default/files/Publications/InvestmentReport2019\\_Fnl.pdf](https://www.researchamerica.org/sites/default/files/Publications/InvestmentReport2019_Fnl.pdf) (Accessed April 27, 2020.)

<sup>ii</sup> Health Research Alliance. HRA Analyzer.