

April 30, 2021

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

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

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Leader Schumer, Speaker Pelosi, Leader McConnell, and Leader McCarthy:

On behalf of the 76 undersigned organizations, we urge you to support the quick passage of the Research Investment to Spark the Economy (RISE) Act to reinvigorate the federal research enterprise, including that funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), which has been limited by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The bipartisan, bicameral RISE Act would provide \$25 billion in emergency relief--\$10 billion of which would support NIH-funded research--to continue federally funded research that has been stalled, delayed, or even stopped as a result of the pandemic. The long-term consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic on the country's biomedical research enterprise are becoming clear: funds are being diverted to support COVID-related research to the detriment of research on conditions within the missions of NIH's 27 institutes and centers; the new COVID-related expenses incurred to run research are reducing the buying power of existing grants; and we are in danger of losing a generation of investigators who are particularly vulnerable to career disruptions.

Congress must take action now to ensure the COVID-19 pandemic does not undermine the future of the research enterprise. The United States was able to respond quickly to the pandemic, including supporting the development of effective vaccines, because of the sustained investment in NIH. Congress must continue its bipartisan commitment to ensure the country is prepared to future pandemics and continuing health threats, like diabetes, Alzheimer's disease, cardiovascular disease, substance use disorders, and maternal mortality. Without additional emergency funds, ongoing research in these and other priority areas will be set back creating additional public health crises.

Besides jeopardizing research progress, further delay in appropriating emergency funding will damage the future biomedical research workforce. NIH has taken important steps to improve the diversity of the research workforce; however, the pandemic has taken a disproportionate toll on early-stage researchers and those with caregiving responsibilities as shown by two recent surveys NIH conducted on COVID-19's impact on the extramural research workforce.<sup>1</sup> Without adequate support, these individuals will leave the workforce at a time their contributions are most needed. It will be critical to address the negative impacts on research productivity and researchers' ability to apply for grants before the bottom completely falls out of the job market for this next generation of scientific research leaders. We are concerned that the

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<sup>1</sup> <https://nexus.od.nih.gov/all/2021/03/25/the-impact-of-the-covid-19-pandemic-on-the-extramural-scientific-workforce-outcomes-from-an-nih-led-survey/>

losses that we have seen to date are just the beginning, and the negative impact will certainly continue to grow. We urge you to act now to prevent this outcome.

As Congress continues to address the pandemic and support the country's recovery, we respectfully request you support research now by passing the RISE Act.

Sincerely,

Endocrine Society

Academic Pediatric Association

Academy for Radiology & Biomedical Imaging Research

Advocacy & Awareness for Immune Disorders Association (AAIDA)

ALLERGY & ASTHMA NETWORK

American Academy of Neurology

American Academy of Pediatrics

American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases

American Association of Immunologists

American Autoimmune Related Diseases Association

American Brain Coalition

American Diabetes Association

American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering

American Neurological Association

American Pediatric Society

American Physiological Society

American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

American Society for Bone and Mineral Research

American Society for Investigative Pathology

American Society for Microbiology

American Society for Nutrition

American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics

American Society of Hematology

American Society of Nephrology  
American Society of Pediatric Nephrology  
American Urological Association  
APS Foundation of America, Inc  
Association for Clinical and Translational Science  
Association of American Cancer Institutes  
Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs  
Beyond Celiac  
Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine  
Certification Board for Diabetes Care and Education  
Chronic Care Policy Alliance  
Clinical Research Forum  
Coalition for Clinical and Translational Science  
Cooley's Anemia Foundation  
Cystic Fibrosis Foundation  
Digestive Disease National Coalition  
Endometriosis Association  
Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology  
Hope For Hypothalamic Hamartomas  
International Biomedical Research Alliance  
International Foundation for Autoimmune & Autoinflammatory Arthritis (AiArthritis)  
Interstitial Cystitis Association  
JDRF  
Jeffrey Modell Foundation  
Lupus and Allied Diseases Association, Inc.  
MdDS Balance Disorder Foundation  
National Center for Environmental Health Strategies  
National Eczema Association  
NephCure Kidney International  
One Mind

Organic Acidemia Association  
Pediatric Endocrinology Nursing Society  
Pediatric Policy Council  
Research!America  
Society for Birth Defects Research and Prevention  
Society for Neuroscience  
Society for Pediatric Research  
Society of General Internal Medicine  
Society of Toxicology  
Susan G. Komen  
The Gerontological Society of America  
The Michael J. Fox Foundation For Parkinson's Research  
The Myositis Association  
The Simon Foundation for Continence  
The Sumaira Foundation for NMO  
Tulane University  
University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences  
University of Colorado SOM and RMR VAMC  
University of Massachusetts Medical School  
University of Utah  
University of Wisconsin- Madison  
Vasculitis Foundation  
wAIHA Warriors  
Wake Forest School of Medicine