



November 20, 2008

President-elect Barack Obama
Presidential Transition Team
Washington, DC

Dear President-elect Obama:

The National Institutes of Health is the cornerstone of the United States' infrastructure for research to improve health. Strong, effective leadership at the NIH is essential to sustaining the level of excellence that Americans expect from this world-class medical and health research institution.

The undersigned organizations urge you to identify the next director of the NIH very early in your Administration to ensure that you have a long-term steward for medical and health research and a partner in finding solutions to the health care crisis.

Annual health care expenditures in the United States continue to increase at a much faster rate than the economy as a whole, and the current economic crisis will likely compound the effects of this growth on U.S. households and businesses. Research has and will continue to show us how to improve patients' health and quality of life, achieve better health care quality and lower costs. Nearly three-quarters (73%) of Americans say that research to improve health is part of the solution to rising health care costs, in a recent Research!America poll.

Investing in research to prevent disease and improve health saves lives and money. Not only are Americans living longer, healthier, more productive lives as a result of research, but success in the 21st century economy depends on research and knowledge to drive innovation and economic growth.

The next NIH Director will play an essential role in retaining our nation's leadership in medical and health research. We look forward to the announcement of your nominee for the position soon.

Sincerely,

Research!America
AAALAC International
AARP
Academic Pediatric Association
Academy of Radiology Research/Coalition for Imaging and Bioengineering Research
AcademyHealth
Adult Congenital Heart Association
Albert Einstein College of Medicine of Yeshiva University

Alliance for Aging Research
Alnylam US, Inc.
Alpha-1 Foundation
Alzheimer's Association
America on the Move Foundation
American Academy of Nursing
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Academy of Physician Assistants
American Association for Cancer Research
American Association for the Advancement of Science
American Association of Anatomists
American Association of Colleges of Nursing
American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy
American Association of Public Health Dentistry
American Cancer Society
American Chemical Society
American Chronic Pain Association
American College of Medical Genetics
American College of Neuropsychopharmacology
American College of Sports Medicine
American College of Surgeons
American Dental Association
American Dental Education Association
American Diabetes Association
American Federation for Aging Research
American Heart Association
American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering (AIMBE)
American Lung Association
American Medical Association
American Medical Group Association (AMGA)
American Medical Informatics Association
American Pain Society
American Pediatric Society
American Psychological Association
American Public Health Association
American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
American Society for Bone and Mineral Research
American Society for Clinical Pathology
American Society for Microbiology
American Society for Nutrition
American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics
American Society for Virology
American Society of Clinical Oncology
American Society of Nephrology
American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene
American Sociological Association

American Thoracic Society
American Transplant Foundation
Americans for Medical Progress
amfAR, The Foundation for AIDS Research
Applied Biosystems, Inc.
Arizona State University College of Nursing & Healthcare Innovation
Association for Prevention Teaching and Research
Association for Psychological Science
Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology
Association for the Accreditation of Human Research Protection Programs, Inc.
Association of Academic Health Centers
Association of American Cancer Institutes
Association of American Medical Colleges
Association of American Physicians
Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges
Association of Anatomy, Cell Biology and Neurobiology Chairpersons
Association of Chairs of Departments of Physiology
Association of Independent Research Institutes
Association of Medical and Graduate Departments of Biochemistry
Association of Medical School Microbiology and Immunology Chairs
Association of Medical School Pharmacology Chairs
Association of Minority Health Professions Schools
Association of Professors of Human and Medical Genetics
Association of Professors of Medicine
Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD)
Assurant Health
Astellas Pharma US, Inc.
Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America
Athena Diagnostics
Aurora Economic Development Council
Autism Speaks
Autoimmune Disease Association
Baylor College of Medicine
Baylor College of Medicine Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences
Biophysical Society
Biotechnology Industry Organization
Birmingham Regional Chamber of Commerce
BloodCenter of Wisconsin, Inc.
Boston University School of Dental Medicine
Boston University School of Public Health
Brigham and Women's Hospital/Partners Healthcare System, Inc.
Bristol-Myers Squibb Company
Burns & Allen Research Institute
Burrill & Company
Burroughs Wellcome Fund
California Biomedical Research Association

California Institute for Regenerative Medicine
California Institute of Technology
Canon U.S. Life Sciences, Inc.
Caring for Carcinoid Foundation
Case Western Reserve University School of Dental Medicine
Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine
Center for Global Health and Medical Diplomacy
Center for the Advancement of Health
CFIDS Association of America
Charles Drew University of Medicine and Science
Child & Adolescent Bipolar Foundation
Children's Memorial Research Center
Children's Research Institute (Washington)
City of Hope National Medical Center
Clinical Research Forum
Coalition for Health Services Research
Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory
Coleman Institute for Cognitive Disabilities, University of Colorado System
Columbia University
Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health
Conference of Boston Teaching Hospitals
Connecticut United for Research Excellence, Inc.
Coriell Institute for Medical Research
Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine
Creighton University School of Medicine
CryerHealth, LLC
CURE (Citizens United for Research in Epilepsy)
Cure Alzheimer's Fund
Damon Runyon Cancer Research Foundation
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
Dartmouth Medical School
Delta Dental Plans Association
DENTSPLY International
Drexel University College of Medicine
Drexel University School of Public Health
Duke University Medical Center
Duke University School of Nursing
Dystonia Medical Research Foundation
Eastern Virginia Medical School
Eli Lilly and Company
Elsevier, Inc.
Emory University Rollins School of Public Health
Emory University School of Medicine
Evan and Cindy Jones Foundation
FasterCures, The Center for Accelerating Medical Solutions
Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB)

Federation of State Medical Boards of the United States, Inc.
Fitzsimons Redevelopment Authority
Ford Finance, Inc.
Foundation for Biomedical Research
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center
Friends of Cancer Research
Friends of the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research
Friends of the National Institute of Nursing Research
Friends of the National Library of Medicine
GBS/CIDP Foundation International
GE Healthcare
Genetic Alliance
Genetics Policy Institute
George Mason University
Georgetown University Medical Center
GlaxoSmithKline
Gynecologic Cancer Foundation
Harvard Medical School
Harvard School of Public Health
Harvard University School of Dental Medicine
Heart Rhythm Society
Heat Transfer Research, Inc.
Hereditary Disease Foundation
HHT Foundation International, Inc.
Home Safety Council
Howard University College of Dentistry
ImmunoGen, Inc.
Indiana University School of Nursing
Infectious Diseases Society of America
Institute for Systems Biology
Institute for the Advancement of Multicultural and Minority Medicine
Intercultural Cancer Council Caucus
International & American Association for Dental Research
International Society for Biological Therapy of Cancer
Invitrogen Corporation
Jefferson Economic Council
Johnson & Johnson
Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO)
Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation International
Keystone Symposia on Molecular and Cellular Biology
Kidney Cancer Association
Kornberg School of Dentistry, Temple University
Kronos Longevity Research Institute
La Jolla Institute for Allergy and Immunology
Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center
Lovelace Respiratory Research Institute

Loyola University of Chicago Stritch School of Medicine
Lupus Foundation of America, Inc.
Lymphatic Research Foundation
March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation
Masonic Medical Research Laboratory
Massachusetts General Hospital/Partners Healthcare System, Inc.
Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)
Massachusetts Society for Medical Research
Mayo Clinic
McLaughlin Research Institute
Medical College of Georgia
Medical University of South Carolina
MedStar Research Institute (MRI)
Meharry Medical College School of Dentistry
Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center
Mental Health America
Mercer University
Metro Denver Economic Development Corporation
Miami Children's Hospital
Midwest Nursing Research Society
Morehouse School of Medicine
Mount Sinai Medical Center/School of Medicine
Muscular Dystrophy Association
National Alliance for Eye and Vision Research
National Alliance for Hispanic Health
National Alliance for Research on Schizophrenia and Depression (NARSAD)
National Alopecia Areata Foundation
National Association of County and City Health Officials
National Caucus of Basic Biomedical Science Chairs
National Foundation for Ectodermal Dysplasias
National Foundation for Infectious Diseases
National Health Council
National Jewish Medical and Research Center
National Marfan Foundation
National Multiple Sclerosis Society
National Organization for Rare Disorders (NORD)
National Osteoporosis Foundation
National Pharmaceutical Council
National Prostate Cancer Coalition
Nationwide Children's Hospital
Nebraskans for Research
Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing, Emory University
Nemours
New York Blood Center
New York College of Osteopathic Medicine
New York University

New York University College of Dentistry
New York-Presbyterian Hospital
North Carolina Association for Biomedical Research
Northwest Association for Biomedical Research
Northwestern University, The Feinberg School of Medicine
Nova Southeastern University College of Dental Medicine
Novartis Pharmaceuticals
Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation
ONE Campaign
Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery Foundation
Oral Health America
Oregon Health & Science University
Oregon Research Institute
Oxford Bioscience Partners
Pacific Health Research Institute
Parent Project Muscular Dystrophy
Parkinson's Action Network
Parkinson's Disease Foundation
Partnership for Prevention
Pennsylvania Society for Biomedical Research
Pfizer Inc
Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA)
Prevent Blindness America
PRIM&R, Public Responsibility in Medicine & Research
Revolution Health
Rice University
Sabin Institute
Salk Institute for Biological Studies
Sanford School of Medicine of the University of South Dakota
sanofi-aventis
Sapphire Women's Health Group
Schroeder Institute for Tobacco Research and Policy Studies
Simmons College
Society for Advancement of Violence and Injury Research (SAVIR)
Society for Neuroscience
Society for Pediatric Research
Society for Public Health Education, Inc.
Society for the Study of Reproduction
Society for Women's Health Research
South Alabama Medical Science Foundation
South Dakota State University
Southeast Business Partnership
Southern Illinois University School of Medicine
SPARC, The Scholarly Publishing & Academic Resources Coalition
Spina Bifida Association of America
Stanford University School of Medicine

State University of New York at Buffalo School of Dental Medicine
State University of New York Downstate Medical Center College of Medicine at Brooklyn
State University of New York Upstate Medical University
Strategic Health Policy International, Inc.
[Student Society for Stem Cell Research](#)
Sudden Cardiac Arrest Association
Suicide Prevention Action Network-USA (SPAN)
Temple University College of Allied Health Professions
Tennessee Institute of Public Health (TNIPH)
Texas A&M Health Science Center
Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center
The Allen Institute for Brain Science
The American Physiological Society
The American Society for Cell Biology
The American Society of Hematology
The American Society of Human Genetics
The Arc of the United States
The Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University
The California Wellness Foundation
The Carcinoid Cancer Foundation (CCF)
The Critical Path Institute (C-Path)
The Endocrine Society
The EyeSight Foundation of Alabama
The Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis Network
The Food Allergy Project, Inc.
The Forsyth Institute
The Foundation Fighting Blindness
The George Washington University Medical Center
The George Washington University School of Public Health and Health Services
The Greater Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce
The Hamner Institutes for Health Sciences
The J. David Gladstone Institutes
The Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health
The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine
The Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing
The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society
The Medical College of Wisconsin
The New Jersey Association for Biomedical Research
The New York Academy of Medicine
The New York Stem Cell Foundation
The Ohio State University College of Dentistry
The Ohio State University College of Medicine
The Ohio State University College of Public Health
The Pennsylvania State University College of Medicine
The Rockefeller University
The Schepens Eye Research Institute

The Scientist
The Scripps Research Institute
The Smith-Kettlewell Eye Research Institute
The University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine
The University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine
The University of Iowa College of Dentistry
The University of Iowa College of Public Health
The University of Mississippi Medical Center
The University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center
The University of Oklahoma HSC College of Public Health
The University of Tennessee Health Science Center
The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston
The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio
The University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center
The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston School of Medicine
The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center
The University of Toledo Medical Center
The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University
Tourette Syndrome Association
TransMed Partnership Forum
Tufts University
Tufts University School of Dental Medicine
Union of Concerned Scientists
United Health Foundation
University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Medicine
University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Nursing
University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Public Health
University of Arizona College of Medicine
University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences
University of California, Berkeley
University of California, Berkeley School of Public Health
University of California, Davis School of Medicine
University of California, Irvine School of Medicine
University of California, Los Angeles School of Medicine
University of California, San Diego School of Medicine/Health Sciences
University of California, San Francisco
University of California, Systemwide
University of Cincinnati Medical Center
University of Colorado Denver
University of Colorado Denver School of Dental Medicine
University of Colorado Denver School of Nursing
University of Colorado System
University of Connecticut School of Medicine
University of Florida
University of Florida College of Dentistry
University of Illinois at Chicago College of Medicine

University of Illinois at Chicago College of Nursing
University of Illinois at Chicago School of Public Health
University of Kansas Medical Center
University of Kansas Medical Center School of Nursing
University of Kentucky
University of Kentucky College of Dentistry
University of Louisville
University of Louisville School of Dentistry
University of Maryland at Baltimore
University of Maryland at Baltimore School of Nursing
University of Maryland Biotechnology Institute
University of Massachusetts Medical School
University of Miami
University of Michigan
University of Michigan College of Pharmacy
University of Michigan Medical School
University of Michigan School of Dentistry
University of Michigan School of Nursing
University of Michigan School of Public Health
University of Missouri at Kansas City School of Dentistry
University of Montana School of Pharmacy and Allied Health Sciences
University of Nebraska Medical Center
University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Dentistry
University of Nebraska-Lincoln
University of Nevada, Las Vegas School of Dental Medicine
University of Nevada, Reno School of Medicine
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Public Health
University of North Carolina School of Medicine
University of North Carolina, School of Dentistry
University of North Texas Health Science Center
University of Notre Dame
University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine
University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine
University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing
University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health
University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine
University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine
University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing
University of Puerto Rico School of Medicine
University of Rochester Medical Center
University of Rochester School of Nursing
University of South Carolina Office of Research and Health Sciences
University of South Florida
University of South Florida College of Nursing
University of Southern California School of Dentistry
University of Southern California School of Pharmacy

University of Utah HSC School of Medicine
University of Vermont College of Medicine
University of Washington School of Medicine
University of Washington School of Nursing
University of Washington School of Public Health and Community Medicine
University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health
Van Andel Research Institute
Vanderbilt University Medical Center
Vanderbilt University School of Nursing
Virginia Commonwealth University
Virginia Commonwealth University School of Dentistry
Wake Forest University School of Medicine
Washington University in St. Louis Center for Health Policy
Washington University in St. Louis School of Medicine
Weill Medical College of Cornell University
West Virginia University Health Sciences Center
Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research
Wisconsin Association for Biomedical Research and Education
WomenHeart: the National Coalition for Women with Heart Disease
Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine
Wyeth
Yale University School of Medicine
Yale University School of Nursing