

## NEWS RELEASE

### **Massachusetts Life Sciences Collaborative Urges Congress to Include New Research Funding in Federal Stimulus Package**

*Funds Would Provide Job Stability, Secure Long-Term Innovation Economy,  
Advance Development of Novel Therapies*

**Editor's Note:** See Letter to Massachusetts Congressional Delegation Below

BOSTON, MA (January 9, 2009) – The Massachusetts Life Sciences Collaborative, an industry/academic organization that includes senior executives from some of the nation's largest medical centers, universities, biotechnology, pharmaceutical, medical device and venture capital firms, today has called for the proposed federal stimulus package to include increased funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and other scientific research agencies such as the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the Department of Energy (DOE).

In a letter to the Massachusetts Congressional delegation from Harvard President Drew Faust, MIT President Susan Hockfield, Genzyme Chairman and CEO Henri Termeer, and UMass President Jack Wilson, the co-chairs of the MLSC leadership council underscored their confidence that increased funding of NIH will stimulate economic activity and job growth throughout the country in the short term, and also advance critical longer term economic interests of the United States by stabilizing our position in the worldwide competition to attract and support the best and brightest minds to biomedical research.

Funding for the NIH, the nation's leading agency for scientific research funding and a major stimulator of drug and medical device innovation, has been flat for the past five years, and due to inflation the agency's budget has actually decreased in real-dollars by roughly 13 percent. As a result, the NIH is now funding less than two of every 10 grant applications.

“There has never been a more fertile time for scientific discovery, and yet regrettably funding constraints have created a backlog of competitively reviewed and highly rated grant proposals that are now clogged in a pipeline awaiting funding,” said Gary Gottlieb, President of Brigham and Women's Hospital and member of the MLSC Leadership Council. “New funds could be quickly allocated to support these important grants, which would also stimulate local economies.”

It is estimated that seven new jobs are tied to each grant, and that every NIH dollar results in more than twice that amount in economic impact.

“Well-established mechanisms for distributing NIH research funds ensure that the highest quality proposals are funded and that research is supported in areas of significant importance to the public health,” said Henri Termeer, Genzyme Chairman and CEO. “The return on this investment will be acceleration of the search for new knowledge that will lead to the development of important therapies as well as the sustainability and enhancement of our innovation economy.”

“Our Congressional delegation has been very active and supportive of the importance of funding life sciences research,” said UMass President Jack Wilson. “A broad consensus needs to develop at this important time for new research funds in our federal budget. Reduced or level funding for the NIH and other science granting agencies will negatively impact our interwoven knowledge economy, including energy, defense, software and information technology.”

“The Life Sciences sector is a proven engine for economic growth in Massachusetts,” said Paul Grogan, President and CEO of the Boston Foundation, a founding member of the Life Sciences Collaborative. “The knowledge economy is central to our ability to thrive, and research is a proven catalyst for growth. Expanding research funding builds on our greatest strengths, seeds innovation, and serves as a powerful and direct way to stimulate the overall regional economy.”

The 45 executives who represent the Massachusetts Life Sciences Collaborative are at the forefront of the life sciences community locally and nationally. The Collaborative’s mission is to stimulate on-going dialogue among the leaders of the life sciences community and to achieve consensus for collective action on issues to enhance the competitiveness of the Commonwealth’s life sciences cluster.

### **Massachusetts Life Sciences Collaborative Membership**

<http://www.masslsc.com/>

Baystate Health; BD Medical; Bentley College; Bessemer Venture Partners; Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center; Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts; The Boston Foundation; Boston Medical Center; Boston Redevelopment Authority; Boston Scientific Corporation; Boston University; Brigham and Women's Hospital; Broad Institute; Children’s Hospital Boston; City of Cambridge; City of Worcester; Dana Farber Cancer Institute; Deshpande Center for Technological Innovation, MIT; EMD Serono; Genzyme Corporation; Harvard Medical School; Harvard University; Hologic, Inc.; Joslin Diabetes Center and Clinic; Mass Technology Leadership Council; Massachusetts Biotechnology Council; Massachusetts General Hospital; Massachusetts High Technology Council; Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Massachusetts Technology Collaborative; MassMEDIC; Merck Research Laboratories; Millipore Corporation; New England Healthcare Institute; Northeastern University; Novartis Institutes for BioMedical Research; Oxford Bioscience Partners; Phase Forward, Inc.; Targanta Therapeutics; Tufts Health Plan; Tufts Medical Center; Tufts University; UMass Memorial Medical Center; University of Massachusetts; University of Massachusetts Amherst; University of Massachusetts Medical School; Vertex Pharmaceuticals; Waltham Technologies; Worcester Polytechnic Institute

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Below is the full text of the letter:

This two-page letter printed on Massachusetts Life Sciences Collaborative letter-head was hand-delivered on January 7, 2009 to the full Massachusetts Congressional Delegation:

- Senator Edward M. Kennedy
- Senator John Kerry
- Congressman Michael M. Capuano
- Congressman Barney Frank
- Congressman James McGovern
- Congressman Richard E. Neal
- Congressman John Tierney
- Congressman William Delahunt
- Congressman Stephen F. Lynch
- Congressman Edward J. Markey
- Congressman John Olver
- Congresswoman Niki Tsongas

The Massachusetts Life Science Collaborative is a broad-based coalition of leaders from industry and academia committed to the growth of the life sciences in the Commonwealth. As co-chairs of the Collaborative, we want to congratulate you on your re-election to the Congress and look forward to working with you on issues of critical import to the life sciences cluster in Massachusetts and throughout the nation.

Like all Americans, we are deeply aware of the implications of the current economic crisis on workers, families and businesses across the country. We know that there will be many critical needs competing for limited federal dollars in any future stimulus legislation. We are also cognizant of the need to target federal investments in ways that assure impact broadly throughout the economy.

In this context, we write to you today to urge that you consider increased funding for the National Institutes of Health in any contemplated stimulus package. We do so because as academic and business leaders intimately involved in biomedical research and life sciences industry, we are confident that NIH funding can have a near immediate economic impact not only here in Massachusetts but in regions throughout the United States. As a result of the many highly-rated NIH grants currently waiting in the agency's pipeline, any new funds could be allocated and put to use quickly. These funds would not only support important scientific work, but also stimulate local economies by the creation on average of seven new jobs for every grant awarded.

The infusion of federal funding into the NIH at the start of this century fueled a scientific transformation in many fields of biological research and set the course for accelerated advances in a broad range of disciplines. New fields like genomics and proteomics, and powerful new medical technologies, have enabled scientists to investigate biological phenomena that were outside our range of vision only a decade ago. By illuminating the genetic errors that may lead to disease, these advances have shown new pathways towards the creation of new therapies.

NIH grants also contribute directly and substantially to the economic health of the nation. It is estimated that each NIH dollar results in more than twice that amount in economic output. With an overall extramural research budget of \$22.846 billion in 2007, NIH generated a total of \$50.5 billion in economic impact. The average wage of the estimated 350,000 jobs nationally that NIH supports is \$52,000

(collectively generating \$18 billion in wages). Ten percent of the NIH funding for biomedical research is secured by Massachusetts institutions. Furthermore, the impact of life sciences funding reaches other important sectors such as energy, defense, software and IT as significant overlaps are growing. Along these lines, it is important to strengthen related funding programs such as DOE and NSF as the research supported by these agencies play an important role, often interwoven with breakthroughs in the life sciences, in fostering improved health and fueling new innovations.

While the positive economic impacts of NIH funding are demonstrable, so too are the long-term negative effects of five consecutive years of funding levels below inflation. NIH is now funding less than two of every ten grant applications, often only after multiple resubmissions and 18-24 months of delay. The result is a slowdown in scientific progress, a reduction in the new business spin outs derived from biomedical research, and a delay in the delivery of new therapies to patients. But, an even more insidious consequence of this erosion of NIH support is the way it has discouraged the next generation of scientific leaders from pursuing careers in biomedical research. The average age of a first time recipient of a major NIH grant is 43 years old and rising; a fact that creates pause for even the most optimistic young scientist.

We are confident that increased funding of NIH will stimulate economic activity and job growth throughout the country in the short term, and also advance critical longer term economic interests of the United States by stabilizing our position in the worldwide competition to attract and support the best and brightest minds to biomedical research.

We respectfully request that you consider the addition of increased NIH funding to whatever stimulus legislation may be under consideration by the Congress in the next weeks and months.