



ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 21, 2009

CONTACT: Barry Toiv
202-408-7500, barry_toiv@aau.edu

AAU STATEMENT ON THE IMPORTANCE OF SUSTAINED FUNDING OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

Following is a statement by Robert M. Berdahl, President of the Association of American Universities (AAU).

AAU and the other participants in ResearchMeansHope commend Congress and President Obama for the strong support they have recently provided to the National Institutes of Health in the Recovery Act and the appropriations process. It is critical that we keep the momentum going.

NIH has made the United States the unquestioned global leader in biomedical research, with enormous benefits to the nation's economy and to the health of the American people and others around the world.

For example, NIH funding helped make possible much of the research that led to this year's Nobel Prizes for Chemistry and for Medicine. For decades, NIH has supported the research of all six of the researchers who won these awards. Their discoveries have given us the hope of new antibiotics and have provided new insight into cellular "aging," thus giving new hope for understanding cancer. NIH-funded research truly does "mean hope."

As physics was the science of the 20th century, our era is the Life Sciences Century. We must not surrender U.S. leadership—or mankind's hope—in biomedical research supported by the National Institutes of Health.

#####

The Association of American Universities (www.aau.edu) is an association of 62 leading public and private research universities in the United States and Canada organized to develop and implement effective national and institutional policies supporting research and scholarship, graduate, professional, and undergraduate education, and public service in research universities. AAU universities award over one-half of all U.S. doctoral degrees and 55 percent of those in the sciences and engineering.