

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Statement of Billy Tauzin: Research Means Hope Coalition

WASHINGTON, DC (October 21, 2009) – In recognition of “National Medical Research Day,” Billy Tauzin, president and CEO of the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA), joined with partners from the Research Means Hope Coalition to thank President Obama, Congress and American taxpayers for the medical research funding included as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Tauzin stated:

“Every American who suffers from a disease understands that research means hope on a very basic level. PhRMA is proud to join the Research Means Hope Coalition and applauds President Obama and Congress' efforts to increase the National Institutes of Health (NIH) research funding. But more must be done. Combined, the medical research supported by the NIH, its affiliates and medical schools and the research laboratories of pharmaceutical and biotech companies across America hold real promise in the search for new treatments and even more cures for diseases that impact patients around the world.

“America’s pharmaceutical research and biotechnology companies are doing their part, having invested over \$65 billion in new research and development projects last year alone – with \$50.3 billion directly invested by PhRMA member companies.

“New medical research is making a huge difference in how we battle disease and in helping to save patients’ lives. The American Cancer Society (ACS) reports that cancer death rates dropped 19.2% among men from 1990 to 2005 and 11.5% among women from 1991 to 2005. The ACS partially attributed the drop to treatment advances.

“The American Heart Association reports that the cardiovascular disease death rate dropped from 26.4% from 1999 to 2005, while the death rate specific to coronary heart disease declined by 34.4% during the same period.”

“And the introduction of highly active anti-retroviral therapy in 1995 has resulted in a drop in the annual number of deaths due to AIDS by more than 70%, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

“These and other encouraging trends show the power and promise of medical research and innovation. Importantly, this research isn’t just focused on the most common diseases; more than 300 new medicines have been approved for rare disorders since the passage of the Orphan Drug Act more than 25 years ago.

“America’s pharmaceutical research and biotechnology companies lead the world in the discovery and development of new medicines. The commitments we make today to support new research into innovative medicines will benefit millions of patients in years to come by helping them avoid disease, manage a disease or even cure conditions once thought incurable. Our goal: to help every American and patients around the globe lead longer, healthier and more productive lives.”

The Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA) represents the country’s leading pharmaceutical research and biotechnology companies, which are devoted to inventing medicines that allow patients to live longer, healthier, and more productive lives. PhRMA companies are leading the way in the search for new cures. PhRMA members alone invested an estimated \$50.3 billion in 2008 in discovering and developing new medicines. Industry-wide research and investment reached a record \$65.2 billion in 2008.

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PhRMA Internet Address: <http://www.phrma.org>
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For information on how innovative medicines save lives, visit: <http://www.innovation.org>
For information on the Partnership for Prescription Assistance, visit: <http://www.pparx.org>
For more information on public health emergencies, visit <http://www.rxresponse.org>
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