



For Immediate Release

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**Statement by American Heart Association President Clyde Yancy, M.D.
in Support of National Medical Research Day**

October 21, 2009

The American Heart Association is proud to join our Research Means Hope coalition partners in the celebration of National Medical Research Day, recognizing the importance of increased funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to improve the health of all Americans. Research supported by the NIH has played a key role in saving lives and improving the health of millions of Americans who depend on scientific discoveries to combat life-threatening illnesses like heart disease, our nation's No. 1 killer, and stroke, our country's No. 3 killer. A robust investment in the NIH will build on the progress scientists have made to reduce death and disability from heart disease and stroke and spur economic growth in communities that conduct NIH-supported research. A boon in funding for the NIH is a boon for our nation's economy. President Obama must fulfill his promise to make the NIH a pillar of the nation's long-term economic growth strategy.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) has given millions of heart disease and stroke patients a renewed sense of hope with an infusion of resources for life-saving medical research that in many cases has been delayed due to insufficient resources. Our nation must seize the opportunity to significantly expand our knowledge of disease, treatment and prevention strategies with sustained and predictable NIH funding increases that will support innovative research. The ARRA investment is a welcome boost but it will not maintain medical research advances over the long-term. Americans continue to face many health challenges as the population ages and obesity and high blood pressure, risk factors for heart disease and stroke, continue to escalate, impacting young and old alike. Now is the time for Congress and the Administration to make a strong financial commitment to the NIH and to fulfill the promise of a healthier life for all Americans.

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