



Coalition Creating Connections for Science

March 3, 2023

The Honorable Robert Aderholt
Chair
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies
House Appropriations Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies
House Appropriations Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin
Chair
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies
Senate Appropriations Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies
Senate Appropriations Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chair Aderholt, Ranking Member DeLauro, Chair Baldwin, Ranking Member Capito, and
Members of the Appropriations Committees,

Thank you for your leadership on making important federal funding decisions related to
medical research. The 44 undersigned organizations are stakeholders of the research led by the
National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases (NIAMS) within the
National Institutes of Health (NIH). **We write to request that you include \$732 million for
NIAMS in the fiscal year 2024 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related
Agencies appropriations bills.**

NIAMS supports research on disorders of the bones, joints, skin, and muscle. This research has
wide ranging implications for those living with chronic illnesses or disabilities. It touches the
most fundamental aspects of human mobility and function.

Current initiatives of NIAMS include:

- NIAMS is leading the **NIH Back Pain Consortium Research Project (NIH BACPAC)**. Lower
back pain is the leading cause of disability in the U.S. and contributes to opioid use. This

initiative convenes patients, providers, and researchers to study back pain and develop personalized treatment plans.

- NIAMS is a critical partner in **the Accelerating Medicines Partnership Autoimmune and Immune-Mediated Diseases (AMP AIM) program**. This program looks at shared mechanisms of autoimmune and immune mediated diseases, particularly the cellular and molecular interactions that lead to inflammation.
- NIAMS partnered with the Office of Research on Women’s Health to launch the **Team Science Leadership Scholars Program (LSP) in Women’s Health**. This initiative will help prepare leaders in women’s health science. Many conditions in NIAMS’ jurisdiction disproportionately impact women including arthritis and osteoporosis.

In addition, NIAMS’ robust external engagement program ensures that supported research is patient centered and meets the needs of stakeholder communities. Stakeholders of the NIAMS research portfolio offer the following observations:

- “Research conducted and funded by NIAMS is critical to advancing the understanding of neuromuscular diseases and finding new treatments. Rare neuromuscular diseases have few treatment options and are often quite severe, so the research supported by NIAMS could truly save lives.” – Paul Melmeyer, Muscular Dystrophy Association
- “As FDA-approved treatments for alopecia areata are finally coming to market, a well-funded NIAMS research portfolio for this disease is more important than ever. These new treatments are historic and important, but we believe the cure itself is out there, and the only way to find it is with continued robust research funded by NIAMS.” – Gary Sherwood, National Alopecia Areata Foundation
- “The International Pemphigus & Pemphigoid Foundation has led the way in voicing the needs of the pemphigus and pemphigoid community. We work closely with our partners like NIAMS to inspire policies supportive of the needs of pemphigus and pemphigoid community and other rare disease patients and their families.” – Marc Yale, IPPF
- “The National Psoriasis Foundation is pleased to be a supporting partner in the Accelerated Medicines Autoimmune and Immune Mediated Diseases (AMP® AIM) program run through NIAMS and the Foundation for the National Institutes of Health. AMP AIM and other research funded by NIAMS is critical to defining mechanisms of psoriatic disease and identifying new targets for treatment and diagnosis that will benefit our community.” Bob Friesel, PhD, National Psoriasis Foundation

Our funding request would enable NIAMS to continue key research initiatives and to explore new opportunities, like its 2022 workshop on Health Disparities in Osteoarthritis. The funding

request accommodates the Biomedical Research and Development Price Index as well as a 5% increase over the fiscal year 2023 appropriation for NIAMS.

Thank you for your consideration of our request. For additional information, please contact the NIAMS Coalition Co-Chairs, Tricha Shivas (tricha@stopsarcoidosis.org) and Lee Grossman (grossman@oref.org)

Sincerely,

American Academy of Dermatology Association
American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine
American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons
American Behcet's Disease Association (ABDA)
American Bone Health
American Chronic Pain Association
American College of Rheumatology
American College of Rheumatology
American Physical Therapy Association
American Society for Bone and Mineral Research
American Society of Nephrology
Arthritis Foundation
Autoimmune Association
Cutaneous Lymphoma Foundation
Foundation for Ichthyosis and Related Skin Types
Foundation for Sarcoidosis Research (FSR)
Global Parents for Eczema Research
Hidradenitis Suppurativa Foundation
International Foundation for Autoimmune & Autoinflammatory Arthritis
International Pemphigus Pemphigoid Foundation
Lupus and Allied Diseases Association, Inc.
Lupus Foundation of America
Lupus Research Alliance
Muscular Dystrophy Association
National Alopecia Areata Foundation
National Eczema Association
National Foundation for Ectodermal Dysplasias
National Psoriasis Foundation
National Scoliosis Foundation
National Spine Health Foundation
Orthopaedic Research and Education Foundation
Orthopaedic Research Society
Osteogenesis Imperfecta Foundation
Pachyonychia Congenita Project
Pediatric Dermatology Research Alliance (PeDRA)

PXE International
Sjogrens Foundation
Society for Investigative Dermatology
Spondylitis Association of America
The Marfan Foundation
The Myositis Association
TSC Alliance
Vasculitis Foundation
VStrong Vitiligo Support Community