April 9, 2013

Dear Members of Congress:

With the delivery of the President's budget on April 10, Congress will begin the process of allocating funds to all the areas in the Federal Budget. One of those areas is long-term research and development in the agencies that fund the backbone of the U.S. scientific enterprise: National Institutes of Health, National Science Foundation, Department of Energy, National Institute of Standards and Technology as well as parts of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the Department of Defense. There is a bipartisan agreement on the importance of federal funding of long-term scientific research. The President emphasized it in his State of the Union speech and Majority Leader Cantor emphasized it in a recent speech at the American Enterprise Institute. The agreement exists because of recognition that this sort of research fuels the innovation engine that is essential to our economy. The entire federal research, development and demonstration enterprise amounts today to about one percent of our Gross Domestic Product and has steadily fallen over the years, while our rivals in Europe and Asia invest more.

We Nobel Laureates are likely to do well in competition for a reduced level of funding. Our concern is for the younger generation who will be behind the innovations and earn the Prizes of the future. We urge you, even in these financially troubled times, to keep the budgets of the agencies that support science at a level that will keep the pipelines full of the younger generation upon whom our economic vitality will rest in future years.

Respectfully,

Dr. Burton Richter  
Stanford Linear Accelerator Center  
1976 Nobel Prize in physics

Dr. Sidney Altman  
Yale University  
1989 Nobel Prize in chemistry

Dr. Peter Agre  
Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health  
2003 Nobel Prize in chemistry

Dr. Kenneth J. Arrow  
Stanford University  
1972 Nobel Prize in economics

Dr. David Baltimore  
California Institute of Technology  
1975 Nobel Prize in physiology or medicine

Dr. Bruce Beutler  
UT Southwestern Medical Center  
2011 Nobel Prize in physiology or medicine

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University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center  
1985 Nobel Prize in physiology or medicine  

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University of Colorado Boulder  
1989 Nobel Prize in chemistry  

Dr. Martin Chalfie  
Columbia University  
2008 Nobel Prize in chemistry  

Dr. Stanley Cohen  
Vanderbilt University  
1986 Nobel Prize in physiology or medicine  

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Brown University  
1972 Nobel Prize in physics  

Dr. James W. Cronin  
Kavli Institute for Cosmological Physics  
1980 Nobel Prize in physics  

Dr. Robert Curl Jr.  
Rice University  
1996 Nobel Prize in chemistry  

Dr. Johann Deisenhofer  
University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center  
1998 Nobel Prize in chemistry  

Dr. Andrew Fire  
Stanford University School of Medicine  
2006 Nobel Prize in physiology or medicine  

Dr. Jerome Friedman  
MIT  
1990 Nobel Prize in physics  

Dr. Walter Gilbert  
Harvard University Professor Emeritus  
1980 Nobel Prize in chemistry  

Dr. Sheldon Lee Glashow  
Harvard University  
1979 Nobel Prize in physics  

Dr. Roy Glauber  
Harvard University  
2006 Nobel Prize in physics  

Dr. Carol Greider  
Johns Hopkins School of Medicine  
2009 Nobel Prize in physiology or medicine  

Dr. David J. Gross  
University of California, Santa Barbara  
2004 Nobel Prize in physics  

Dr. Roger Guillemin  
Salk Institute  
1977 Nobel Prize in physiology or medicine  

Dr. John L. Hall  
University of Colorado  
2005 Nobel Prize in physics  

Dr. Leland Hartwell  
Center for Sustainable Health, Arizona State University  
2001 Nobel Prize in physiology or medicine  

Dr. Dudley R. Herschbach  
Harvard University  
1986 Nobel Prize in chemistry  

Dr. Roald Hoffmann  
Cornell University  
1981 Nobel Prize in chemistry  

Dr. Louis J. Ignarro  
UCLA School of Medicine  
1998 Nobel Prize in physiology or medicine  

Dr. Wolfgang Ketterle  
MIT  
2001 Nobel Prize in physics  

Dr. Brian Kobilka  
Stanford University School of Medicine  
2012 Nobel Prize in chemistry  

Dr. Walter Kohn  
University of California, Santa Barbara  
1998 Nobel Prize in chemistry  

Dr. Roger Kornberg  
Stanford University School of Medicine  
2006 Nobel Prize in chemistry  

Dr. Leon Lederman  
University of Chicago  
1988 Nobel Prize in physics  

Dr. Robert Lefkowitz  
Duke University Medical Center  
2012 Nobel Prize in chemistry  

Dr. Eric Maskin  
Harvard University  
2007 Nobel Prize in economic science  

Dr. John Mather  
University of Maryland and NASA Goddard Space Flight Center  
2006 Nobel Prize in physics  

Dr. Craig Mello  
University of Massachusetts Medical School  
2006 Nobel Prize in physiology or medicine  

Dr. Mario Molina  
University of California San Diego  
1985 Nobel Prize in Chemistry  

Dr. Ferid Murad  
George Washington University  
1998 Nobel Prize in physiology or medicine  

Dr. Douglas Osheroff  
Stanford University  
1996 Nobel Prize in physics
Dr. Martin L. Perl  
Stanford Linear Accelerator Center  
1995 Nobel Prize in physics

Dr. Saul Perlmutter  
University of California, Berkley and Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory  
2011 Nobel Prize in physics

Dr. William Phillips  
Joint Quantum Institute  
1997 Nobel Prize in physics

Dr. David Politzer  
Caltech  
2004 Nobel Prize in physics

Dr. Adam Riess  
Johns Hopkins University  
2011 Nobel Prize in physics

Dr. Richard Roberts  
New England Biolabs  
1993 Nobel Prize in physiology or medicine

Dr. Brian P. Schmidt  
The Australian National University  
2011 Nobel Prize in physics

Dr. Phillip Sharp  
Koch Institute for Integrative Cancer Research  
1993 Nobel Prize in physiology or medicine

Dr. Hamilton Smith  
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2001 Nobel Prize in physics

Dr. Eric Wieschaus  
Princeton University  
1995 Nobel Prize in physiology or medicine

Dr. Torsten Wiesel  
Rockefeller University  
1981 Nobel Prize in physiology or medicine

Dr. Frank Wilczek  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
2004 Nobel Prize in physics

Dr. Robert W. Wilson  
Bell Laboratories  
1978 Nobel Prize in physics