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December 19, 2011

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Re: FY2013 Budget Priority - NIH

Dear President Obama:

On behalf of the **Friends of the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (FNIDCR)**, a leading broad-based coalition of individuals, academic institutions, patient advocate groups, dental societies, and corporations, that understands the importance of dental, oral and craniofacial health to our society, we are grateful for the continued commitment to medical research that your administration has demonstrated amid a challenging budgetary environment.

The **National Institutes of Health (NIH)** and the **National Institute for Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR)**, an Institute which is of particular interest to our membership, continue to conduct critical medical research that benefits all Americans. In fact, Americans value research.

- A majority of Americans (69%) believe it is very important for the U.S. to be a global leader in research to improve health.
- 55% of Americans are willing to pay more for research to improve health.

Moreover, research powers our innovation economy and provides life-saving treatments and cures. Cuts will only set the U.S. back at a time when other countries are rapidly increasing investment in research.

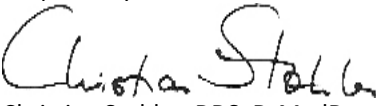
- NIH directly and indirectly supported nearly 488,000 jobs and produced \$68 billion in new economic activity in 2010 alone.
- A report issued by *Families USA* calculated that in 2007, every \$1 in NIH funding resulted in an additional \$2.11 in economic output in the U.S. in full or in part.
- 69% of Americans think research is very important to the U.S. economy.

In addition, NIH Director Dr. Francis Collins pointed out in an August 2011 interview with *USA Today* that one particular research project realized a 141 to 1 return on investment.

Finally, we note that although NIH's budget doubled from 1998 to 2010, NIDCR's did not. Despite this fact, NIDCR-funded research is present in 132 Congressional Districts (often multiple awards for a congressional district) in 43 states and territories. For FY11, 23 NIDCR projects (approx. \$8 million) were geared toward tissue engineering/regenerative medicine for the craniofacial region with potential applicability to the complex maxillofacial injuries suffered by combat troops. Therefore, from children to cancer patients to combat veterans, NIDCR-funded research benefits a broad spectrum of Americans. For FY13, NIDCR must be funded at 1.37% of NIH's total funding.

President Obama, we understand the challenging budgetary environment our country faces and the tough choices that come with it. However, as the FY13 budget is being prepared, we urge you to make medical research a priority by supporting a significant investment for NIH by proposing \$35 billion in funding. A robust NIH budget in FY13 ensures researchers will continue their invaluable work to improve the lives of Americans and continue to drive the U.S. economy.

Respectfully submitted,


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FNIDCR President

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