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January 4, 2010

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

Re: FY2011 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 recommitment to science and research that your administration has demonstrated. This is due in large part to the passage of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009.

ARRA provided the **National Institutes of Health (NIH)** and the **National Institute for Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR)**, which is of particular interest to our membership, unprecedented funding that has created or saved a multitude of jobs. Moreover, ARRA funding has initiated or sustained medical research that will help save the lives of many Americans.

- For example, thanks to ARRA funding at NIDCR, University of Chicago researchers are evaluating oral cancer screening regimens for oral pre-malignant and malignant lesions to determine their accuracy in diverse populations (including minorities).¹

President Obama, we applaud your demonstrated commitment to science and research. As you prepare the Fiscal Year 2011 budget, we urge you to make medical research a priority in the next fiscal year's budget by supporting a significant increase for NIH. We contend the new and important scope of research projects generated by ARRA funding must be sustained once ARRA funding expires. A robust NIH budget in FY2011 will ensure researchers will continue their invaluable work. Otherwise, the scientific and economic momentum generated by ARRA will unfortunately fade away.

Respectfully submitted,

R. Bruce Donoff, D.M.D., M.D.
FNIDCR President

¹Project Number 1RC2DE020779-01