

The AMERICAN ASSOCIATION of
IMMUNOLOGISTS



President

Jenny P. Ting, Ph.D.

February 17, 2021

Vice President

Gary A. Koretzky, M.D., Ph.D.

The Honorable Edward Markey
255 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Thom Tillis
113 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Past President

Jeremy M. Boss, Ph.D.

Secretary-Treasurer

Edith M. Lord, Ph.D.

The Honorable Gary Peters
724 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Susan Collins
413 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Councillors

Mark M. Davis, Ph.D.
Akiko Iwasaki, Ph.D.
Stephen Jameson, Ph.D.
Ulrich H. von Andrian, M.D.

Dear Senators Markey, Tillis, Peters, and Collins:

Executive Director

M. Michele Hogan, Ph.D.

I am writing on behalf of The American Association of Immunologists (AAI), the nation's largest professional association of research scientists and physicians who are dedicated to studying the immune system, to express our support for the Research Investment to Spark the Economy (RISE) Act. We thank you for introducing this critically important legislation that will help scientists who have been adversely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic complete any interrupted research projects, extend their training periods, and retain the jobs needed to continue their important work.

We are extremely grateful that Congress has provided the National Institutes of Health (NIH) with nearly \$5 billion in emergency supplemental funding to address some of the immediate challenges of the pandemic, including research related to vaccines and treatments for COVID-19. Many AAI members are deeply immersed in this important research, which has already resulted in the development of several urgently needed vaccines and treatments. We remain, however, very concerned about the disruption that the pandemic has caused to the broader scientific enterprise; many immunologists and other scientists, whether working on infectious diseases, cancer, autoimmune diseases, or other important research areas, have been forced to slow or stop their research.

AAI is therefore very pleased to endorse the RISE Act, which authorizes \$25 billion for federal science agencies, including \$10 billion for NIH, to help restore lab productivity and address the many setbacks that the pandemic has caused in the careers of trainees and other scientists.

Thank you again for your leadership and strong support for the nation's scientific and medical researchers. We stand ready to assist you as you pursue this critically important investment in our nation's health and future.

Sincerely,

Ross M. Kedl, Ph.D.

Chair, AAI Committee on Public Affairs