

The AMERICAN ASSOCIATION of
IMMUNOLOGISTS



President
Jeremy M. Boss, Ph.D.

April 29, 2020

Vice President
Jenny P. Ting, Ph.D.

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

Past President
JoAnne L. Flynn, Ph.D.

Secretary-Treasurer
Edith M. Lord, Ph.D.

Dear Senator Markey:

Councillors
Gary A. Koretzky, M.D., Ph.D.
Mark M. Davis, Ph.D.
Akiko Iwasaki, Ph.D.
Stephen Jameson, Ph.D.

We are writing on behalf of The American Association of Immunologists (AAI), the nation's largest professional association of research scientists and clinicians who are dedicated to studying the immune system. Many of our members are deeply immersed in research that may lead to the development of vaccines and treatments for COVID-19. What they are learning will no doubt also help prepare our nation and world for future pandemics.

Executive Director
M. Michele Hogan, Ph.D.

We are very grateful for the funding that Congress has provided thus far to the National Institutes of Health and other important federal agencies that support the scientists and public health officials who are working tirelessly to combat the current pandemic. Nevertheless, we are deeply concerned about the necessary disruption the pandemic has caused to the broader scientific enterprise. Many immunologists, whether working on infectious diseases, cancer, autoimmune diseases, or other important research areas, as well as scientists across the nation, have experienced the closure of their laboratories or campuses, and have been forced to slow or stop their research.

As a result, AAI was very pleased to learn of – and endorses – your request to include \$26 billion in the next COVID-19 relief bill to address some key concerns of the nation's scientific workforce. As you know, this funding would support needed supplements for research grants and contracts, including research ramp-up costs; sustain support personnel and core research facilities; and fund additional graduate student and postdoctoral fellowships, traineeships, and research assistantships.

AAI is very grateful for your support for the nation's scientific and medical researchers, especially at this time when their work is most needed, and stands ready to assist you as you pursue this critically important investment in our nation's health and future.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Jeremy M. Boss in black ink.

Jeremy M. Boss, Ph.D.
President

Handwritten signature of Ross M. Kedl in black ink.

Ross M. Kedl, Ph.D.
Chair, AAI Committee
on Public Affairs

Handwritten signature of M. Michele Hogan in black ink.

M. Michele Hogan, Ph.D.
Executive Director

The AMERICAN ASSOCIATION of
IMMUNOLOGISTS



President
Jeremy M. Boss, Ph.D.

May 8, 2020

Vice President
Jenny P. Ting, Ph.D.

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

Past President
JoAnne L. Flynn, Ph.D.

Secretary-Treasurer
Edith M. Lord, Ph.D.

Dear Senator Tillis:

Councillors
Gary A. Koretzky, M.D., Ph.D.
Mark M. Davis, Ph.D.
Akiko Iwasaki, Ph.D.
Stephen Jameson, Ph.D.

We are writing on behalf of The American Association of Immunologists (AAI), the nation's largest professional association of research scientists and clinicians who are dedicated to studying the immune system. Many of our members are deeply immersed in research that may lead to the development of vaccines and treatments for COVID-19. What they are learning will no doubt also help prepare our nation and world for future pandemics.

Executive Director
M. Michele Hogan, Ph.D.

We are very grateful for the funding that Congress has provided thus far to the National Institutes of Health and other important federal agencies that support the scientists and public health officials who are working tirelessly to combat the current pandemic. Nevertheless, we are deeply concerned about the necessary disruption the pandemic has caused to the broader scientific enterprise. Many immunologists, whether working on infectious diseases, cancer, autoimmune diseases, or other important research areas, as well as scientists across the nation, have experienced the closure of their laboratories or campuses, and have been forced to slow or stop their research.

As a result, AAI was very pleased to learn of – and endorses – the effort led by Sen. Markey and you to include \$26 billion in the next COVID-19 relief bill to address some key concerns of the nation's scientific workforce. As you know, this funding would support needed supplements for research grants and contracts, including research ramp-up costs; sustain support personnel and core research facilities; and fund additional graduate student and postdoctoral fellowships, traineeships, and research assistantships.

AAI is very grateful for your support for the nation's scientific and medical researchers, especially at this time when their work is most needed, and stands ready to assist you as you pursue this critically important investment in our nation's health and future.

Sincerely,

Jeremy M. Boss, Ph.D.
President

Ross M. Kedl, Ph.D.
Chair, AAI Committee
on Public Affairs

M. Michele Hogan, Ph.D.
Executive Director