

The AMERICAN ASSOCIATION of  
IMMUNOLOGISTS



*President*  
Jeremy M. Boss, Ph.D.

April 28, 2020

*Vice President*  
Jenny P. Ting, Ph.D.

The Honorable Diana DeGette  
2111 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Fred Upton  
2183 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

*Past President*  
JoAnne L. Flynn, Ph.D.

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

Dear Reps. DeGette and Upton:

*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