Emory Research Advocacy Network (ERAN)
Talking Points

Emory is an advocate for the research enterprise.
Specifically, we support and promote:

1. **Maintaining and enhancing funding for the research enterprise.**
The surest way to continue advancing science and cures in this country is sustainable federal funding of research. It has been 13 years since Congress finished doubling the budget of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Since 2003, the research community has faced federal budgetary challenges that have caused success rates for grant proposals to plummet to historic lows. When funding levels vary from year to year, scientific discovery and innovation cannot flourish. The best way to be a scientific world leader is sustainable and enhanced funding of the research enterprise.

2. **The integrity of the peer review process.**
Oftentimes, the title or aim of a research project sounds ludicrous to the ears of a layman. Just as “funny” title names of research projects have come under scrutiny, so has any research that is not considered “real” science such as social science, or that becomes politicized, such as political science. Emory continues to believe that the peer review process, and the selections for grant funding that comes out of that process, ensure integrity of the research enterprise. We trust the peer review process and our scientists to vet research proposals based on their merits, not on their names.

3. **Reallocating compliance costs to direct funding back into actual research.**
Researchers should be spending their time developing cures and new innovations, not engaging in administrative tasks. Scientists face an avalanche of burdensome and redundant paperwork striving to comply with regulations that do not often seem to have a purpose. Studies have consistently shown that principal investigators of federally sponsored research projects spend, on average, 42 percent of their time associated with administrative tasks. By streamlining administrative requirements for scientists and recipients of research grants, we break down barriers that get in the way of medical progress, and help ensure that our country’s innovators are able to focus on achieving the lifesaving breakthroughs that so many patients and families are hoping to see.
Impact of Research
Research helps Emory and Georgia attract a highly skilled workforce and top professors and students, create and sustain small companies focused on health care innovation, develop and use new state-of-the-art equipment and facilities, partner with industry on drug development, and facilitate the transfer of laboratory discoveries into commercialized products that save and improve lives.

Research funding has a direct impact on the national and state economies. External funding for research at Emory in fiscal year 2016 reached an all-time high, with $574.6 million invested in innovative and essential work. This marks the seventh consecutive year that research funding at Emory has exceeded $500 million. Federal investment in research results in concrete, tangible benefits: for every $1 million in NIH funds awarded in Georgia, almost 17 jobs are created. The total economic impact of NIH research activity in fiscal year 2015 totaled over $1.468 billion.

Research Partnerships
Emory’s research funding is dependent on collaborative research projects both within Emory and with our numerous partners. Emory is one of seven research universities part of the collaborative Georgia Research Alliance, tasked with growing Georgia’s economy by expanding university research capacity and by seeding and shaping startup companies around inventions and discoveries. The partnership between our School of Medicine and Georgia Tech’s College of Engineering in biomedical engineering is ranked first in the nation for its undergraduate program and second for its graduate program. Emory’s partnerships with other Georgia universities and institutions strengthens the State’s reputation as a research hub.

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