Dear Deans and Research Deans:

Yesterday, AADR sent the below message to all AADR Members. With apologies for the duplication, I wanted to make sure you were aware of the communication so that you could take action yourselves and encourage your faculty and students to do the same.

Yesterday, NIH Director Francis Collins called an emergency meeting of Institute and Center directors to make clear that the sequester is here and that stakeholders in the biomedical research community must make their voices heard on Capitol Hill if the situation is to be resolved. If a sequester of the budget moves forward on Friday, as appears probably, Members of Congress and the White House will likely return to the negotiating table to forge a path out.

The sequester indiscriminate cuts will result in a loss of $21 million to the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research in Fiscal Year 2013 alone, reducing its already low grant success rate and the award levels of non-competing continuations.

As a community, we must make certain that biomedical research in general, and dental and craniofacial research in specific, has an appropriate place in any new funding legislation that is assembled. Please take a moment to respond to and share the AADR action alert provided below. The process takes less than five minutes and is critical to the broader movement to replace budget sequestration with a sensible alternative.

Click here: AADR Action Center, then click “Take Action” on Web page. Thank you for your assistance.
Sincerely,

Christopher Fox

From: AADR Government Affairs [mailto:memberservice@aadronline.org]
Sent: Monday, February 25, 2013 7:08 PM
To: Christopher Fox
Subject: ACT NOW! Prevent devastating cuts to NIDCR and NIH - Visit the AADR Action Center

Click here for a Web version of this message.

Action Alert

Your Action Needed - Likely Budget Sequestration Implementation This Friday – Unless Congress acts sooner, on Friday, March 1, the implementation of across-the-board budget reductions referred to as sequestration will be set into motion. Despite various ideas floated by individuals and coalitions within Congress, an alternative to the automatic indiscriminate cuts acceptable to both the House and Senate has yet to emerge. Washington budget crises tend to get resolved at the very last moment. However, as stated last week by a senior White House staffer in a meeting with health and research advocacy groups (including AADR), “this time feels different.” Further reflecting this reality is the fact that officials in the Obama administration are beginning to formally warn stakeholders and fully plan for the implementation of sequestration. In just the few past days, the White House has released some state-level data on implementation, and the National Institutes of Health has outlined its March 1st budget plan. NIDCR would lose $21 million in Fiscal Year 2013 alone if budget sequestration is fully implemented.

Leaders from both major parties are entrenched and appear to be waiting for the impacts of budget sequestration to become more visible to the public before moving forward. The strategy is a clear indication from Congress that only a public outcry is going to drive the development of a sensible compromise. The outcry from the health and research communities must be strong in the days ahead.

Please take 5 minutes now and visit the AADR Action Center and send an email or make a telephone call to your Members of Congress! Your voice must be heard loud and clear to protect our investments in dental and craniofacial research on behalf of improving health for all Americans.
Scientists and students from the AADR community can avoid looking back and wishing that they had done more by simply taking action now. We thank you in advance.

Sincerely,

Rena D’Souza, DDS, MS, PhD, President
Christopher H. Fox, DMD, DMSc, Executive Director