**March for Science**

**Letter for International Members/Policymakers**

*Sending a letter/email to a policymaker is an effective way of sharing information about an issue and influencing the policymaker’s perspective. Members of the Endocrine Society from outside the United States are strongly encouraged to share information about the March for Science, and, more importantly, the importance of supporting science with their policymakers.*

***Who to write to?*** *Endocrine Society members live in countries all over the world that have different political systems. Society members can write to the head of their government, health minister, and/or local elected officials.*

***How to send a letter?*** *Policymakers prefer receiving email communications. You can google the name of your government officials and contact information, including an email address, will be provided.*

***What should I say?*** *Below is a sample letter you can use. The letter can be personalized, but remember to keep the letter brief, about one page. Society members can send in English or translate into their language.*

Sample Letter to Policymaker:

Dear :

On April 22, 2017, the largest rally in support of science ever will take place in over 400 cities across the United States and the world. Hundreds of thousands of scientists and science advocates will come together with one voice to call for support for science, support for publicly funded research, and the need for policymakers to enact evidence-based policies. As someone interested in endocrinology and endocrine-related science, I hope I can count on your support for this important cause.

I am very proud of advancements in my field. Endocrine-related research, and biomedical research in general, has led to incredible accomplishments that have impacted the lives of millions of people, such as the development of insulin, early detection of tumors, prevention of bone fractures, and fertility treatments. More research progress is within reach and could lead to development of drugs to replace cells in the pancreas lost due to disease, precision treatments for cystic fibrosis patients based on their specific genetic conditions, and more effective nutritional recommendations to improve pregnancy outcomes for couples.

At the same time, however, I am increasingly alarmed by threats to cut biomedical research and the trend toward discrediting scientific consensus and restricting scientific discovery. Currently government funding for biomedical research is being reduced or threatened in several countries. Many highly-regarded research projects will not be funded due to decreasing funding levels, resulting in delays for new treatments and cures. The research workforce is also suffering as highly-educated trainees are dropping out of the research pipeline, afraid there will be no future for them. Even experienced researchers are closing or reducing their labs as funding has become more restricted.

Science is, at its core, evidence-based and non-partisan. The increasing politicization of science has resulted in stagnant funding, a rejection of evidence, and a shrinking research workforce. If we are to prevent and cure diseases, discover and innovate, we must invest in publicly-funded biomedical research and have confidence in its scientists.

At the March for Science, we will hear from scientific experts about diverse issues that need your attention and support. I urge you to join us and support science, scientists, and the life-saving work we do. Please contact me if I can be a resource as you consider this critical issue.

Sincerely,

Name

Address and email contact information