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July 15, 2015

The Honorable Chuck Grassley
Chairman
Senate Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Bob Goodlatte
Chairman
House Committee on the Judiciary
2138 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Conyers Jr.
Ranking Member
House Committee on the Judiciary
2138 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Grassley, Ranking Member Leahy, Chairman Goodlatte, and Ranking Member Conyers:

On behalf of Research!America, the nation's largest nonprofit alliance committed to faster medical progress, we appreciate your determined efforts to combat "patent trolling" and in other ways safeguard the integrity, efficiency and effectiveness of our nation's intellectual property (IP) system.

As you continue your work, we urge you to address serious concerns about the *inter partes* review process (IPR) at the US Patent and Trademark Office. We are particularly concerned about the impact of this process on innovation in the bioscience arena.

The IPR has bred capital market scams that place bioscience investment dollars at risk. Compounding this issue, IPR creates uncertainty that heightens the risk of – and therefore dis-incentivizes – bioscience investment. Finally, as currently structured, the IPR system jeopardizes the careful balance struck under the Drug Price Competition and Patent Term Restoration Act (known as "Hatch-Waxman") and subsequent laws designed to encourage medical innovation while enabling generic versions of brand drugs to enter the marketplace.

These and other issues, including those related to fee shifting and mandatory joinder, merit further consideration and remedial action before legislation reaches the House or Senate floor.

Thank you for your stewardship over our nation's IP system and for considering our views on this crucially important topic.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Woolley". The signature is written in a dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Mary Woolley
President and CEO