

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 22, 2010

Chairman Norman D. Dicks
House Appropriations Subcommittee
on Defense
H-149 Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Ranking Member C.W. Bill Young
House Appropriations Subcommittee
on Defense
1016 Longworth House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Dicks and Ranking Member Young:

We write to request your Subcommittee's continued support for the Army's Neurofibromatosis (NF) research program. Significant advances in NF research have been made to date, due in large part to the Army's program, and leading researchers are now on the threshold of a treatment and a cure for this terrible disease.

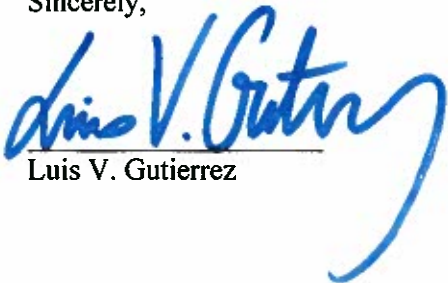
NF involves the uncontrolled growth of tumors along the nervous system, which can result in terrible disfigurement, deformity, deafness, blindness, brain tumors, cancer and death. NF is the most common neurological disorder caused by a single gene and it affects approximately 100,000 Americans. However, because of NF's close connection to many common diseases and disorders, such as cancer, learning disabilities, heart disease, memory loss, and brain tumors, research on NF stands to benefit 175 million Americans in this generation alone.

NF research also has the potential to benefit the military since the disease is connected to nervous system impairment and war-related illnesses. Because NF manifests itself in the nervous system, the Army-supported research on NF addresses peripheral nerve regeneration after injury from such things as missile wounds and chemical toxins. Findings generated by research on NF could make important progress in our understanding of wound healing, as well as investigating genetic mechanisms which involve not only the nervous system, but also other cancers.

The modest investment in NF research over the past fourteen years has already resulted in major breakthroughs. However, we believe that we must continue to invest in research if we are to continue to advance towards treatments and cures for the numerous diseases associated with NF. Thanks to the continued efforts of this Subcommittee, the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command has developed an impressive research program that has received praise from both Congress and the research community. It is important to continue to build upon this success, and we ask that you include **\$20 million for the Army's NF research program in your Fiscal Year 2011 appropriations bill.**

Thank you for your attention to this request.

Sincerely,


Luis V. Gutierrez


Christopher John Lee

Tom Petri
Thomas E. Petri

Dale E. Kildee
Dale E. Kildee

Bill Delahunt
William D. Delahunt

James P. McGovern
James P. McGovern

Mary Jo Kilroy
Mary Jo Kilroy

Rosa L. DeLauro
Rosa L. DeLauro

Howard L. Berman
Howard L. Berman

Raul M. Grijalva
Raul M. Grijalva

Chris Van Hollen
Chris Van Hollen

Bill Foster
Bill Foster

Barney Frank
Barney Frank

Tammy Baldwin
Tammy Baldwin

John J. Duncan Jr.
John J. Duncan Jr.

Stephen F. Lynch
Stephen F. Lynch

Andre Carson
Andre Carson

Robert A. Brady
Robert A. Brady

Bobby L. Rush
Bobby L. Rush

Dennis J. Kucinich
Dennis J. Kucinich

Edward J. Markey
Edward J. Markey

Danny K. Davis
Danny K. Davis