

My name is Andrew Little. I am the President of UAW Local 4100, which represents nearly 3,000 postdoctoral researchers at Columbia, Mount Sinai, and Weill Cornell Medicine—out of over 15,000 workers in higher education represented by the UAW in New York City—and is supporting organizing efforts by biomedical researchers at Rockefeller University, NYU, and Albert Einstein College of Medicine.

Our members are early-career researchers working in diverse fields, developing life-saving new treatments for disorders like cancer, Alzheimer's, heart disease, diabetes, HIV/AIDS, while training the next generation of scientists.

As unionized researchers, we are extremely concerned by the federal government's administration's attacks on research over this last year. Federal biomedical grants to New York State institutions totaled more than \$4 billion in 2024, but over \$300 million was cut in 2025, over 1,000 grants were disrupted, and we expect the Trump administration to continue its efforts to seek cuts to federal research budgets now and in the future. Labs and institutions across the state have already faced canceled grants, funding shortfalls, and layoffs as a result of these actions.

These attacks have had severe impacts on funds for workforce development, training programs, and fellowships that are necessary for researchers to transition to independence by starting their own labs once they finish their training. Many of these grants are also intended to strengthen US science by supporting scientists from underrepresented groups in biomedical research.

New York is at risk of falling behind many states that are investing more in research to address the instability of current federal funding. In California there is an initiative to invest \$23 billion in biomedical research. In Massachusetts, there is the DRIVE initiative, which would add \$400 million this year to advance innovative research, discovery of lifesaving cures and jobs amid federal cuts. Texas has long invested state funds in cancer research through the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas, a \$6 billion initiative. And recently we have seen Canada announce an investment of 1.2 billion to attract scientific talent being driven away by cuts to federal research funding. Other countries have launched similar efforts in recent months.

Due to these cuts we are already witnessing a devastating loss of talent, a "brain drain" to other countries and states that threatens New York's scientific leadership. In March 2025, nearly a year ago, a national survey showed that 75% of researchers were considering leaving the country in the near future. A recent analysis by the journal Nature of jobs board data found that

U.S.-based scientists submitted 32% more applications to positions abroad between January and March compared to the same period in 2024.

Researchers who leave this year are unlikely to return to the U.S., even if federal funding were to become more stable. They will seek more secure positions in other states or countries where they can advance their work, and the economic growth and life-saving clinical trials associated with their discoveries will benefit those places, instead of New Yorkers.

I want to emphasize that every dollar invested in funding for research and training generates more than \$2 in economic activity. This occurs not only through the commercialization of scientific discoveries, but also by creating and sustaining jobs at major academic centers and hospitals and in their surrounding areas, the effect of new discoveries on cutting New York's healthcare costs - which are some of the highest in the country - building new research infrastructure, and starting new labs that act as force multipliers by going on to attract funding of their own. But this growth will stall if sources of funding we rely on remain in jeopardy.

The solution is clear, and we're glad that Governor Hochul has recognized the importance of our members' work with a \$65 million investment in the "Bolstering Biotech Initiative". The governor has wisely chosen to make sure the entire research pipeline is supported through this money, from early stage research through to commercialization and start-ups. We look forward to finding ways to advance her proposal for greater coordination around clinical trials across our State, among other aspects of this initiative.

To ensure that this investment targets the parts of the research pipeline most directly impacted by instability at the federal grants, we believe it is critical to add an additional \$100M to the Bolstering Biotech Initiative, with a significant portion of these funds distributed through competitive, science-based research grant-making program, bringing the total for the initiative to \$165M.

This is more on par with what other states are investing to recruit, retain, and support research talent. As UAW members and researchers, we urge you to prioritize early-stage research and workforce development and training, so that our members can stay in New York and continue to drive economic growth, innovation, and life-saving medical breakthroughs and treatment in our state.