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**Ronald C. Petersen, Ph.D., M.D.**  
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February 6, 2018

Senator Susan M. Collins  
413 Senate Dirksen Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Collins:

I was delighted to learn of your richly deserved recognition by Research!America and I would like to extend my hearty congratulations. The prestigious Edwin C. Whitehead Award for Medical Research Advocacy is truly a testament of your leadership in increasing federal funding for research, which is critical for much needed medical advances. In particular, I am grateful for your relentless commitment to boost the Alzheimer's disease funding.

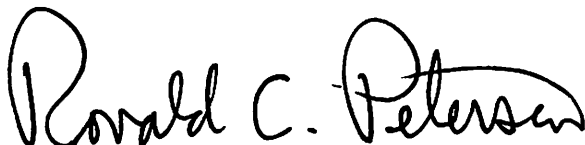
Your work including the authorship of the National Alzheimer's Project Act was absolutely fundamental in promoting research on Alzheimer's disease. Prior to the passing of National Alzheimer's Disease Plan, the federal budget for Alzheimer's disease research was less than \$500M. Most recently, it has risen to over \$1.4 billion, and I applaud you for this amazing accomplishment.

I have had a great privilege to testify before the Senate Special Committee on Aging on several occasions and update you and your colleagues on progress from the Advisory Council on Research, Care and Services for the NAPA. I stand ready to be of any service and assistance in the future.

I have personally enjoyed my many interactions with you and appreciate your taking time to visit all of us at Mayo in 2017. We cherish our relationship with you and look forward to continued collaborations.

Again, congratulations on this extremely well deserved honor.

Sincerely,



Ronald C. Petersen, Ph.D., M.D.  
Professor of Neurology  
Distinguished Mayo Clinic Investigator  
Cora Kanow Professor of Alzheimer's Disease Research  
Cadieux Director, Mayo Alzheimer's Disease Research Center  
Director, Mayo Clinic Study of Aging

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# MAYO CLINIC

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