The National Institutes of Health (NIH) is vital to improving health, strengthening the economy, and investigating scientific frontiers. The $32 billion provided to NIH FY16 provided the agency with its strongest support since 2003. To continue building on the progress made possible by this increase, we urge Congress to support an appropriation of at least $2 billion above the final FY17 budget for FY18, supplemented by the release of the full funds allocated in the 21st Century Cures legislation.

Health and Discovery
NIH-supported research drives discovery that transforms medicine, improves treatments, and will one day lead to cures.
- More than 1,000 neurological and neurodegenerative diseases, such as schizophrenia, TBI, autism, and Parkinson’s disease, affect the lives of the nearly 100 million Americans.
- In the last five years of life, total health care spending for people with dementia is 57% percent greater than costs associated with death from other diseases, including cancer and heart disease.
- NIH-funded basic (also called fundamental) science is unlocking the mysteries these brain-related disorders. Today’s discoveries in the lab will pave the way for tomorrow’s treatments.

Economic Growth and Prosperity
NIH funding is an investment in our country’s future, reducing health care costs, supporting quality jobs, and increasing economic activity.
- Neurological illnesses and mental disorders cost the U.S. more than $760 billion a year. The only way to decrease these costs is to improve treatments.
- Every dollar of research money from the NIH generates approximately $2.21 in economic output.
- Eighty-five percent of NIH’s budget funds research located in every state, and it fuels almost 400,000 jobs and $58 billion in economic output nationwide.

The Future of the Scientific Enterprise
Many of today’s discoveries were unimaginable less than a decade ago, yet recent cuts threaten that progress. Without a renewed commitment to research, who knows what medical advances will go undiscovered.
- The substantial lag time between discovery and profitability means that businesses need NIH research to explore fundamental science before they can translate discoveries into practical treatments.
- Without a strong workforce, we are jeopardizing the future of U.S. competitiveness. Young scientists are moving to other careers due to stagnant funding.
- The 2016 Global R&D Funding Forecast projects modest growth in U.S. R&D investments through 2028, and indicates that, if current trends hold, China will surpass the U.S. in total R&D spending by about 2026.
Funding for the National Institutes of Health

Sources


7 In Your Own Backyard: How NIH Funding Helps Your State’s Economy. Families USA. June 2008.

8 NIH Awards by Location & Organization. The National Institutes of Health.

9 Rockey, S. Age Distribution of NIH Principal Investigators and Medical School Faculty. February 2012.


The Society for Neuroscience (SfN) is a nonprofit membership organization of nearly 37,000 scientists and physicians who study the brain and nervous system. Visit SfN.org or email advocacy@sfn.org to learn more.