The National Institutes of Health (NIH) is vital to improving health, strengthening the economy, and investigating scientific frontiers. The $34.1 billion provided to NIH FY17 provided the agency with its strongest support since 2003. To continue building on the progress made possible by this increase, we urge Congress to appropriate for NIH at least $39.3 billion in FY19 including 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.
- Neurological diseases cost Americans nearly 800 billion each year. The only way to decrease these costs is to improve treatments.
- NIH funds only the highest quality of research. 153 NIH grantees, including four 2017 winners, have received Nobel prizes. 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 cost the U.S. nearly $800 billion a year. The only way to decrease these costs is to improve treatments.
- Investments in NIH stimulate private investment. Each public $1 spent on basic research stimulates an $8.38 increase in industry R&D spending.
- On average, each NIH grant creates 7 quality jobs.
- NIH fueled over $65 billion of new economic growth in 2016.

The Future of the Scientific Enterprise
NIH research funding generates more than 100 new inventions each year. 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.

NIH BY THE NUMBERS

$37.1 billion
NIH FY 2018 budget

80 percent
amount of the NIH budget invested through local research institutions

54,692
FY 2017 awards supported (52,470 in FY2016)

300,000
researchers at

Over 2,500
research institutions

79 percent
of Americans believe increasing NIH funding is critical
Funding for the National Institutes of Health

Sources

8 Rockey, S. Age Distribution of NIH Principal Investigators and Medical School Faculty. February 2012.
10 NIH Awards by Location & Organization. The National Institutes of Health.

The Society for Neuroscience (SfN) is a nonprofit membership organization of nearly 36,000 scientists and physicians who study the brain and nervous system. Visit SfN.org or email advocacy@sfn.org to learn more.