



Funding for the National Institutes of Health



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,¹ such as schizophrenia, TBI, autism, and Parkinson's disease, affect the lives of the nearly **100 million Americans**.²
- Neurological diseases cost **Americans nearly 800 billion** each year.³ 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.⁵ 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**⁶ 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.⁵
- On average, each NIH grant creates **7 quality jobs**.⁷
- NIH fueled over **\$65 billion** of new economic growth in 2016.⁷

The Future of the Scientific Enterprise

NIH research funding generates more than 100 new inventions each year.⁷ 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.⁸
- 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 2026.⁹

NIH BY THE NUMBERS

\$37.1 billion

NIH FY 2018 budget

80 percent

amount of the NIH budget invested through local research institutions¹¹

54,692

FY 2017 awards supported (52,470 in FY2016)¹⁰

300,000

researchers at¹¹

Over 2,500

research institutions¹¹

79 percent

of Americans believe increasing NIH funding is critical¹²



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Sources

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- ⁵ *NIH Almanac*. National Institutes of Health. October 2017.
- ⁶ Gooch, C., Pracht, E., Borenstein, A. 2017. *The burden of neurological disease in the United States: A summary report and call to action*. Annals of Neurology, 81(4):479-484.
- ⁷ *NIH Turning Discovery into Health*. The National Institutes of Health. December 2017.
- ⁸ Rocky, S. Age Distribution of NIH Principal Investigators and Medical School Faculty. February 2012.
- ⁹ Chakma, J., Sun, G., Steinberg, J.D., Sammut, S.M., Jagsi, R. *Asia's Ascent — Global Trends in Biomedical R&D Expenditures*. The New England Journal of Medicine. 370:1. January 2014.
- ¹⁰ *NIH Awards by Location & Organization*. The National Institutes of Health.
- ¹¹ *NIH FY2017 Budget in Brief*. Health and Human Services. May 2017.
- ¹² *America Speaks: Poll Data Summary, Volume 17*. Research America. 2017.

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.