The National Institutes of Health (NIH) is vital to improving health, strengthening the economy, and investigating scientific frontiers. The $47.5 billion provided to NIH in FY2023 provided the agency a 57% increase over the past eight years. To continue building on the progress made possible by this increase, we urge Congress to appropriate at least $50.924 billion in FY2024 to NIH’s foundational work.

**Health and Discovery**
NIH-supported research drives discovery that transforms medicine, improves treatments, and will one day lead to cures.

- NIH-funded basic (also called fundamental) science is unlocking mysteries with brain-related disorders. Today’s discoveries in the lab will pave the way for tomorrow’s treatments.
- 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 healthcare spending for people with dementia was 57% percent greater than costs associated with death from other diseases, including cancer and heart disease.

**Economic Growth and Prosperity**
NIH funding is an investment in our country’s future and will reduce healthcare costs, support quality jobs, and increase 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 prevention strategies and treatments.
- Every dollar of research money from the NIH generates approximately $2.60 in economic output.
- Eighty-five percent of NIH’s budget funds research located in every state, and it fuels almost 552,000 jobs and $94 billion in economic output nationwide.

**The Future of the Scientific Enterprise**
Many of today’s discoveries were unimaginable less than a decade ago and any budget cuts would threaten sustained progress. Without a continued commitment to research, who knows what medical advances will go undiscovered.

- The substantial lag time between discovery and profitability impacts business. Businesses need NIH research to explore fundamental science before they can translate these critical discoveries into applicable treatments.
- Without a strong workforce, we are jeopardizing the future of U.S. competitiveness. Young scientists are moving from research to other careers due to stagnant funding.
- According to the 2022 AAAS Global R&D Update, the U.S. is first or second in total R&D expenditures, scientific publications, researcher count, and triadic patents. But if U.S. science and technology leadership is to be maintained, policymakers must take a proactive approach to investment policy.
Sources

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 around 30,000 scientists and physicians who study the brain and nervous system. Visit SfN.org or email advocacy@sfn.org to learn more.