SOCIETY for NEUROSCIENCE

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 $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,[1] such as schizophrenia, TBI, autism, and Parkinson's disease, affect the lives of the nearly **100 million Americans**.[2,3]
- 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.[5,6] 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.**[7]
- 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.[7]

NIH BY THE NUMBERS

$47.5 billion
NIH FY2023 budget

95 percent
of the NIH budget goes directly to research awards, programs, centers, and contracts[11]

65,301
FY2022 awards supported by NIH[8]

300,000
researchers at NIH[11]

2,500
research institutions are supported by NIH[11]

68 percent
of Americans are in favor of increasing federal funding for brain health research[12]

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.[13]

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Sources

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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.