



May 9, 2017

The Honorable Roy Blunt
United States Senate
Labor, Health, Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Subcommittee

Dear Chairman Blunt:

On behalf of the nearly 37,000 members of the Society for Neuroscience (SfN), I am writing to express our gratitude for your leadership in securing \$34.1 billion for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) as part of the FY 2017 Omnibus Appropriations bill.

This bipartisan, bicameral legislation reflects your years of leadership in championing the importance of biomedical research and scientific innovation to human health and our nation's economy. The additional investments resulting from the Omnibus package will provide much-needed support to our nation's basic research ecosystem. It will foster future discoveries across scientific disciplines, fueling the breakthroughs necessary to tackle neurological and mental disorders such as Alzheimer's disease, traumatic brain injury, and depression, among many others, which currently cost the U.S. more than \$760 billion a year.

Thank you as well for including \$260 million for the NIH contribution to the Brain Research through Advancing Innovative Neurotechnologies (BRAIN) Initiative, a small but important piece of the overall federal investment in neuroscience. The BRAIN Initiative has already borne fruit in the field of scientific tool development. There's now a strong sense that this initiative will catalyze discoveries across the broader field of neuroscience and spark ingenuity in this new scientific generation to guide future progress.

We are truly grateful for your steadfast leadership and support of NIH, especially in this challenging environment. We look forward to continuing our work with you in prioritizing strong and consistent funding for brain science through NIH, NSF, and other federal agencies in the FY18 budget.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact SfN Director of Advocacy and Training Michael Heintz at mheintz@sfn.org or (202) 962-4000. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Eric J. Nestler'.

Eric J. Nestler, MD, PhD
President
Society for Neuroscience