



# FASEB

Federation of American Societies  
for Experimental Biology

*Representing Over 130,000 Researchers*

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Testimony of the  
**Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology**  
Prepared for the  
**House Committee on Appropriations**  
**Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies**  
Representative Debbie Wasserman Schultz, Chair  
Representative John Carter, Ranking Member

On  
**FY 2021 Appropriations for the Veterans Affairs Medical and Prosthetic Research Program**

**The Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB) respectfully requests a minimum of \$860 million in fiscal year (FY) 2021 for the Veterans Affairs Medical and Prosthetic Research Program.**

Veterans' lives are improved through innovations in basic, translational, clinical, and rehabilitation research, and through vital health services. These are provided by the VA Medical and Prosthetic Research Program. Although focused on veterans' health, all Americans benefit from this program's discoveries.

The VA's collaboration with university partners, non-profits, and private industry is a model for innovative research to advance health care and prevention strategies. The research program also enables the VA to recruit and retain a cadre of outstanding physician-scientists to care for our nation's veterans.<sup>1</sup>

Several areas of VA research remain critically underfunded, including post-deployment mental health, substance abuse, and the long-term effects of hazardous materials exposure. The VA Medical and Prosthetic Research Program needs a budget of at least \$860 million (an increase of \$60 million over FY 2020) in FY 2021 to address these issues, maintain purchasing power, and support research on conditions common among service members. Other research areas that would benefit from additional funding are the chronic care needs of our aging veteran population, including cancer and type-2 diabetes.

A significant infusion of funds is also needed to ensure continued VA support of the Million Veterans Program (MVP) without reducing resources for other VA research. MVP is a multi-year effort to collect genetic samples and health information from a large and diverse group of veterans to understand how genes affect human health, ultimately improving care for all people.<sup>2</sup>

**FASEB FY 2021 recommendation: at least \$860 million for VA Medical and Prosthetic Research Program**

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.research.va.gov/>

<sup>2</sup> [Million Veterans Program, U.S Department of Veterans Affairs](#)