



September 16, 2024

The Honorable Patty Murray
Chair
Senate Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Susan Collins
Vice Chair
Senate Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chair
House Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Murray, Vice Chair Collins, Chairman Cole, and Ranking Member DeLauro,

On behalf of the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB), representing 110,000 researchers from 22 member societies, I am writing to urge you to work together in a bipartisan manner to finalize fiscal year (FY) 2025 funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH). As the nation's largest public funder of biomedical research in the world providing competitive grants to support the work of 300,000 scientists at universities, medical centers, independent research institutions, and companies nationwide, NIH is the backbone of our nation's biomedical research enterprise. The agency supports economic, and national security through both the knowledge it develops and the pipeline for the scientific workforce it enables. We are concerned that with less than a month until the start of FY 2025, NIH will be left operating under a temporary budget agreement that will significantly harm its ability to fund new research grants, initiate planned clinical trials, expand career opportunities for young investigators and trainees, and take advantage of critical new opportunities to advance biomedical research.

The House and Senate Appropriations Committees have had a long-standing record of bipartisan accomplishment in making funding for biomedical research a national priority. Since FY 2015, the NIH budget has grown by more than \$17 billion, enabling NIH to fund a greater number of grants each year and restore purchasing power that was lost during the decade in which Congress flat-funded the agency after the doubling ended in 2003. Sustainable and predictable funding increases year-over-year are essential to continuing this progress.

The importance of NIH-funded research to our nation cannot be overstated. NIH-funded investigators recently demonstrated the ability to harness animal research and maximize public-private partnerships by collaborating with industry to develop a messenger RNA (mRNA) vaccine which was quickly adapted for COVID-19. The agency also accelerated the development and commercialization of COVID testing through the Radx initiative. NIH-funded research is developing therapies for a whole spectrum of age-related disorders, as well as chronic health conditions such as obesity which impacts 42 percent of the U.S. population and increases the likelihood of developing other costly medical conditions such as diabetes, cancer, and heart disease.

There is also the need to keep pace with the persistently increasing costs of research. Scientists are still fighting inflation at the bench, as items such as reagents, gloves, pipette tips, microscopes and other supplies needed to conduct science are more expensive than they were just a year ago. Labor costs have also grown, placing additional pressure on researchers who must carefully manage their grant budgets.

NIH will need additional resources in FY 2025 in order to maintain its status as a world leader in biomedical research. While we appreciate that the Appropriations Committees made preliminary progress on the FY 2025 Labor, Health, and Human Services (LHHS) spending bill in a constrained fiscal environment and under a completely inadequate discretionary spending cap, FASEB is nonetheless deeply concerned that the final funding level for NIH will not be enough to make progress toward new cures, treatments, diagnostics, and preventive interventions for patients, and sustain the biomedical research workforce of the future. It is imperative that Congress re-negotiate the FY 2025 discretionary spending cap so that appropriators can resume the trajectory of above-inflation increases for NIH.

In March, FASEB released our FY 2025 funding recommendations, requesting \$51.3 billion for NIH to allow the agency to accelerate progress across all areas of medical science, including regenerative medicine, cancer immunotherapy, and neurological health, and allow the agency to continue its commitment to supporting the next generation of our biomedical researchers. The NIH funding recommendation was also endorsed by nearly 400 other members of the medical research stakeholder community.

As the FY 2025 appropriations process moves forward, we urge the Committee to advance a bipartisan LHHS bill that increases funding over the pending House and Senate recommended levels for NIH. FASEB looks forward to continuing to work with the Committee and all lawmakers toward a bipartisan spending bill that provides robust funding for NIH as expeditiously as possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Beth Garvy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Beth Garvy, PhD
FASEB President