



# 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 2020 Appropriations for the Veterans Affairs Medical and Prosthetic Research Program**

**The Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB) respectfully requests a minimum of \$840 million in fiscal year (FY) 2020 for the Veterans Affairs Medical and Prosthetic Research Program.**

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Medical and Prosthetic Research Program improves veterans' lives through innovations in basic, translational, clinical, health services, and rehabilitation research. Although focused on veterans' health issues, all Americans benefit from Medical and Prosthetic Research Program discoveries.

The VA's collaboration with university partners, non-profit organizations, 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 \$840 million (an increase of \$61 million over FY 2019<sup>2</sup>) in FY 2020 to address these issues, maintain purchasing power, and support research on conditions that are common among service members. The program needs these additional resources to address 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 areas. 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 individuals.

**FASEB FY 2020 recommendation: at least \$840 million for VA Medical and Prosthetic Research Program**

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

<sup>2</sup> [H.R.5895 - Energy and Water, Legislative Branch, and Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act, 2019](#)