



As Director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), I am pleased to present the Congressional Justification of the NIH fiscal year (FY) 2014 budget request. This budget request for \$31.331 billion total program level reflects the President's and the Secretary's commitment to improving the health of the Nation and to maintaining the Nation's leadership in the life sciences. The request highlights investments in innovative research that will advance fundamental knowledge and speed the development of new therapies, diagnostics, and preventive measures to improve public health. The request will enable NIH to enhance efforts to recruit and retain diverse scientific talent and creativity.

NIH has been advancing our understanding of health and disease for over a century, and its contributions are immeasurable. NIH advances are behind most of the gains this country has enjoyed in public health. Today, scientific and technological breakthroughs generated by NIH research are enabling even more rapid progress to be made in turning discovery into health. For example, HIV/AIDS treatment and prevention strategies produced through NIH research may enable us to realize the first AIDS-free generation in over 30 years. In the not-too-distant future, we can anticipate cancer treatment as precisely targeted to each patient's unique tumor biology. We can envision a future in which advanced prevention strategies allow everyone to have a much better chance of living a long and healthy life.

Investment in NIH is not only an investment in a healthier future for all Americans, it is also an investment in our Nation's economy. NIH plays a critical role in underpinning the Nation's competitiveness in the life sciences. Since the late 1940s, the U.S. has led the world in public support for biomedical research, resulting in a life sciences sector that ranks among the strongest performers in the U.S. economy and assures the Nation's place as a leader in science and technology. At a time when many countries throughout the world are dramatically increasing their investment in science and technology, our Nation continues to invest in biomedical research.

The FY 2014 budget request, a 1.5% increase over FY 2012, will enhance NIH's ability to support cutting-edge research and training of the scientific workforce. The budget request allocates resources to areas of the most extraordinary promise for biomedical research, while maintaining the flexibility to pursue unplanned scientific opportunities and address unplanned health needs.

Support of NIH will allow scientists to continue tackling the most common diseases and disorders—such as cancer, heart disease, HIV, and obesity—and also enable researchers to improve treatments and preventions for those suffering from rare and neglected diseases. In addition, new technologies will accelerate discovery and pave the way for NIH medical innovations to reach more people in the Nation and across the globe. More than ever, NIH has

the opportunity to increase the Nation's capability to prevent disease and improve health for all, while solidifying the Nation's preeminence in the life sciences.

I welcome the opportunity to discuss this budget request and NIH's plans for FY 2014 and the years ahead.

Francis S. Collins, M.D., Ph.D.