



As the Director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), I am pleased to present the Congressional Justification of the NIH fiscal year (FY) 2016 budget request. This budget request for \$31.311 billion total program level reflects the President's and the Secretary's commitment to improve the health of all Americans and maintain the country's leadership in the biomedical sciences. In addition, it highlights research investments that will increase understanding of underlying disease causes and spur development of diagnostics, treatments, and preventive approaches to improve health. It will enable NIH to recruit and support a talented and diverse workforce to bring new insights to our understanding of biology and advance the translation of these insights

into improved health for all.

As stewards of the Nation's principal investment in biomedical science, NIH engages in a dynamic process to determine how best to distribute its resources among a careful balance of short- and long-term basic and applied research activities and the scientific infrastructure needed to accomplish them. The strength of this approach is evidenced by the extraordinary number of innovative discoveries in biomedical science produced through NIH-funded research. In FY 2016, NIH will continue to focus on striking a balanced research portfolio that enhances health while reducing illness and disability. This includes unraveling life's mysteries through basic research, translating discovery into health, harnessing data and technology to improve health, and preparing a diverse and talented biomedical research workforce.

The processes we have in place allow for the necessary flexibility to capitalize on scientific opportunities, respond immediately to urgent public health needs, and build the evidence base for the future of health care. This flexibility was apparent when responding to the global Ebola crisis in 2014, centered on an outbreak in West Africa. In our response, NIH quickly provided support for researchers to track the virus' spread as well as to pursue new prevention and treatment strategies to combat the disease.

Furthermore, NIH continues to build foundations to encourage revolutionary improvements to the prevention and treatment of disease and disability. We are capitalizing on recent advances in technology and our understanding of individual genetic variability to discover more precise means for delivering more tailored health care. Called precision medicine, this area holds the promise to develop new approaches to address disease prevention, novel therapeutics, and medical devices.

Overall, the FY 2016 budget request will enable NIH to continue its investments in groundbreaking research, scientific workforce training, and technologies of the future. NIH will retain the flexibility to prioritize research that reduces illness, increases disease prevention, and responds to emerging public health needs.

I look forward to discussing the FY 2016 budget request and NIH's plans for the future.

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