



As the Director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), I present the Congressional Justification of the NIH fiscal year (FY) 2019 budget. This request for a \$34.8 billion total program level includes the consolidation of targeted HHS research programs within NIH as three new institutes. The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) would become the National Institute for Research on Safety and Quality (NIRSQ), the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (including the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program) would move to NIH from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research would move to NIH from the Administration for Community Living.

As part of a larger government-wide effort to address the opioid crisis, NIH has prioritized the investment of \$850 million (including \$750 million from an HHS-wide \$10 billion investment) in an ambitious series of project, including a multi-year public-private partnership to accelerate the development of safe, non-addictive, and effective strategies to prevent and treat pain, opioid misuse, and overdose, and to help optimize their implementation. In consultation with experts from government, industry, and academia, NIH has proposed a coordinated strategy with two primary aims: developing new formulations and combinations of medications to treat opioid use disorders and to prevent and reverse overdose; and accelerating development of new non-addictive pain therapies.

The Budget gives priority to critical needs in additional areas. To help create a stable path for the next generation workforce and ensure the best and brightest scientists remain in research, NIH launched the Next Generation Researchers Initiative (NGRI). The Budget includes a dedicated fund of \$100 million in the Office of the Director that Institutes and Centers would be able to draw on to supplement the NGRI efforts undertaken with their own appropriations. To begin a long-term effort to provide the necessary funding for stewardship of NIH facilities, especially the NIH Clinical Center, the Buildings & Facilities (B&F) account is increased to \$200 million. There is also \$50 million in the Common Fund for additional prize competitions to encourage innovation and complement traditional forms of NIH financial support, and \$30 million to support data science activities.

NIH continues to highlight scientific opportunities that could transform the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of disease as described in the *NIH-wide Strategic Plan 2016-2020*. These include the four projects supported by the Innovation Fund established in the 21st Century Cures Act. The Budget includes full funding of \$711 million for these projects, which will continue to make important strides in FY 2019. The *All of Us* Research Program began its beta phase of enrolling participants in May 2017 ahead of a full-scale launch in the spring of 2018.

I look forward to discussing NIH's plans for the future.

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