



On behalf of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), I am transmitting the Congressional Justification of the NIH request for the fiscal year (FY) 2021 budget. This request for a \$38.7 billion total program level is critical in supporting NIH's mission to seek fundamental knowledge about the nature and behavior of living systems and to apply that knowledge to enhance health, lengthen life, and reduce illness and disability. Importantly, this budget request enables the NIH to catalyze economic growth throughout the Nation by allowing researchers in every state to transform inspiration into innovation.

The NIH FY 2021 budget ensures that NIH can prioritize innovation to develop transformational tools and technologies, discover new clinical breakthroughs, and advance the next frontier of biomedical research. NIH-funded researchers maintain global leadership in ingenuity, creating much-needed diagnostics and treatments for currently intractable diseases and conditions. With the advancement of emerging technologies such as gene-editing, 3D tissue printing, artificial intelligence, single-cell biology, and neurotechnologies – to name a few – innovative discoveries are the key to transforming the promise of biomedical research into tangible hope for patients.

To advance the NIH mission, the FY 2021 budget will continue its long-standing commitment to investing in basic research and the arc of translation into clinical practice. Fundamental research is the key to unlocking the secrets of how living systems function and remains the foundation for the development of novel treatments and cures. For instance, NIH-supported basic research continues to push the frontier in understanding and treating HIV, which is leading to the development of new effective treatments, rapid diagnostics, and other approaches that now allow HIV-infected individuals to live a nearly normal lifespan. Basic research also serves as the foundation for the NIH Helping to End Addiction Long-term (HEAL) Initiative, which aims to curb the opioid epidemic and provide non-addictive alternatives for individuals who suffer from chronic pain.

Importantly, the FY 2021 budget allows NIH to secure the Nation's investment in the current workforce and the next generation of biomedical research scientists. More than 80 percent of the NIH's funding is awarded for extramural research, largely through almost 50,000 competitive grants to more than 300,000 researchers at more than 2,500 universities, medical schools, and other research institutions in every state. Additionally, the Next Generation Researchers Initiative provides NIH with an opportunity to address the challenges of tomorrow's scientific workforce. As such, NIH plans to prioritize meritorious applications from early-stage investigators and develop evidence-based strategies to support mission-specific workforce issues.

In conclusion, the FY 2021 budget provides resources for NIH, and the researchers around the country it supports, to continue to develop, maintain, and renew scientific activities that will

enhance our ability to prevent and ultimately cure disease. I look forward to discussing the FY 2021 budget request.

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

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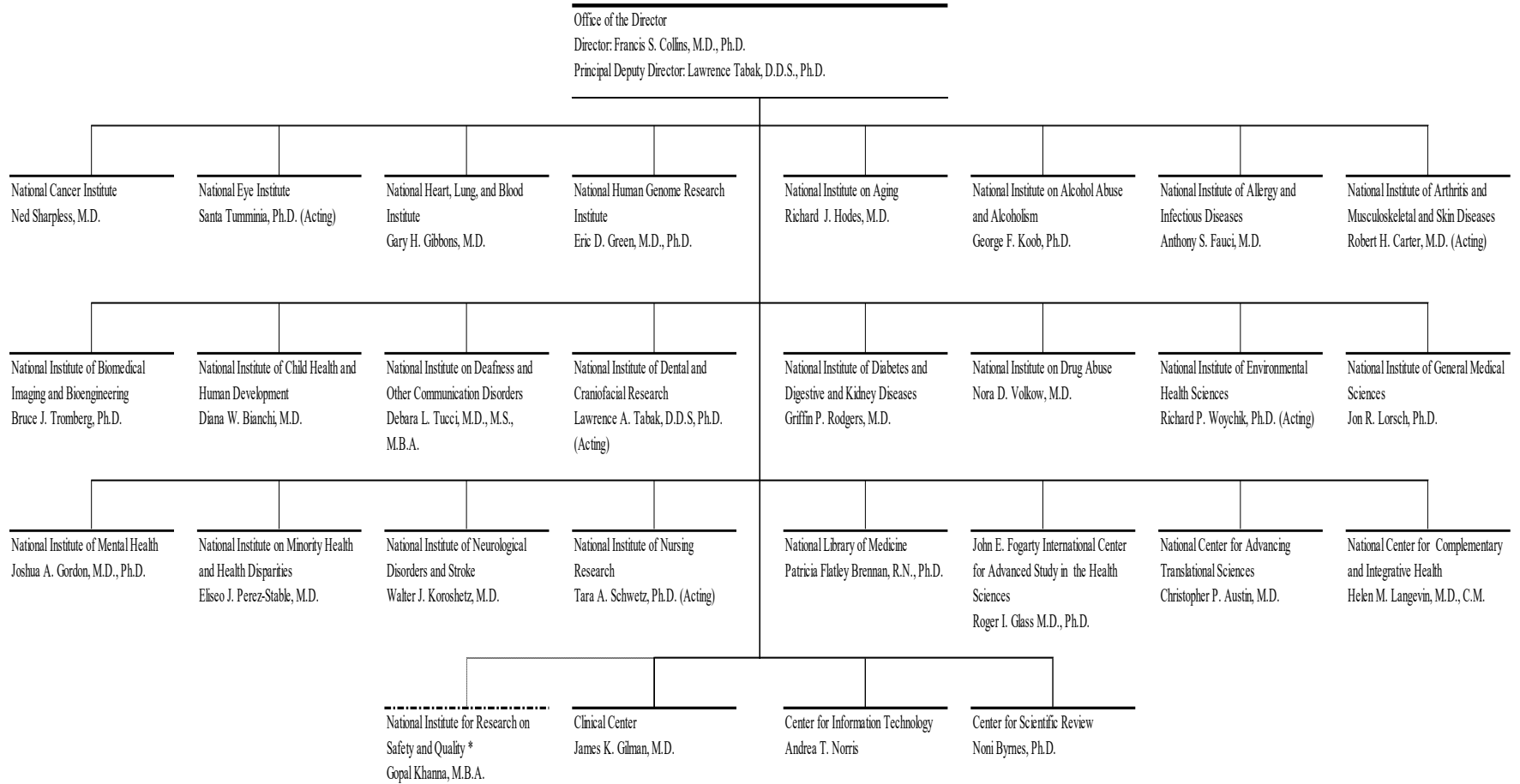
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ORGANIZATION CHART

National Institutes of Health



* The FY 2021 Budget proposes to consolidate the highest priority activities of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality within NIH as the National Institute for Research on Safety and Quality