



On behalf of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), I am transmitting the Congressional Justification of the NIH request for the fiscal year (FY) 2022 budget. This request for a \$52.0 billion total program level is critical to 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 support critical biomedical discoveries that lead to life-saving medical interventions and enables the biomedical research workforce from across the full inclusive richness of the Nation to transform inspiration into innovation.

It is hard to put into words just how remarkable the biomedical research accomplishments in response to the COVID-19 pandemic are in the history of science. A vaccine development process that used to take many years, often decades, has been condensed to about 11 months. In our efforts to combat COVID-19, we have come a long way in a short period. But there is still plenty of work to do to get this pandemic and other public health crises facing our Nation under control. The NIH FY 2022 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.

It is important to recognize that the advances made in the past year could not have happened without the efforts of many scientists working tirelessly for many years to understand fundamental aspects of life and human health prior to the pandemic. The FY 2022 budget continues to advance NIH's 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 developing novel treatments and cures. Just as investment in basic science led to the rapid development of COVID-19 vaccines, diagnostics, and therapeutics, 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. As the NIH builds upon its investments in basic research to develop innovative medical treatments, we look forward to being the home to the new Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H) and its exciting new capabilities to speed the application and implementation of health breakthroughs.

The FY 2022 budget allows NIH to secure the Nation's investment in this current biomedical workforce and the next generation of biomedical research scientists. As a science agency, the NIH understands that bringing diverse perspectives, backgrounds, and skillsets to address complex scientific problems enhances scientific innovation, and we are committed to ending structural racism in biomedical research. We will be instituting new ways to support diversity, equity, and inclusion which will help identify and dismantle any policies and practices that may

harm our workforce and our science. A new NIH initiative called UNITE will provide the framework for this important effort. UNITE goals are centered on ending structural racism and racial inequities across the biomedical research enterprise through short-term and long-term actions.

In conclusion, the FY 2022 budget provides resources for NIH, and the hundreds of thousands of researchers it supports, to accelerate discoveries that will enhance our ability to prevent and cure disease. I look forward to discussing the FY 2022 budget request.

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

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ORGANIZATION CHART

National Institutes of Health

