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On behalf of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), I am privileged to transmit the Congressional Justification of the NIH request for the fiscal year (FY) 2023 budget. This request for a \$62.5 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 supports the diverse and inclusive workforce needed for developing tomorrow's life-saving medical interventions.

In December 2021, Dr. Francis Collins stepped down as head of the agency. On behalf of NIH, I extend my deep gratitude and appreciation to Dr. Collins for his years of exemplary leadership and service. During his tenure at the agency's helm, Dr. Collins tackled some of the most pressing health issues facing the Nation, including Alzheimer's disease, cancer, diabetes, health disparities, opioid use disorder, rare diseases, and the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. His singular focus was ensuring the Nation's investment in biomedical research was maximally leveraged to improve health, end suffering, and provide hope. I share this commitment and, while serving as the Acting Director of NIH, I intend to continue the important initiatives that Dr. Collins and I have nurtured together over the past 12 years.

The landscape in which NIH pursues its mission has abruptly shifted over the past two years, bringing both new opportunities and historic challenges to the forefront of biomedical research. These years will be remembered not solely by the historic pandemic that caused global suffering, but also by the resurgence of recognition of the necessity of science to ensure society's resilience during challenging times. The scientific method can often take time as researchers carefully test new ideas and build upon decades of past discoveries, but it is a proven mechanism for solving complex problems such as those we face today. It took thousands of scientists over 25 years of fundamental discovery to enable the development of the messenger RNA (mRNA) vaccines for COVID-19 in less than a year. These vaccines have been shown to create a robust immune response and are safe. It is of note that the vast majority of those currently hospitalized with COVID-19 are unvaccinated, a tragic confirmation of the value of these vaccines.

The pandemic also brought into even sharper focus the impact of health disparities in America, and the need to redouble efforts to redress them. We also more clearly see the harm structural racism brings to health and the biomedical research enterprise and our workforce and are determined to act. At the same time, climate change is exacerbating existing health threats and creating new public health challenges, most evidently in communities that already experience health disparities. To meet these challenges, NIH has pivoted in real-time through the creation of several programs and initiatives and is working further to lay the groundwork for a robust

biomedical research enterprise for years to come. Therefore, this year, the agency's Congressional Justification theme is "NIH in a Changing World: Science to Enhance Human Health."

The biomedical research workforce has faced unparalleled challenges these past few years but has remained steadfastly committed to pursuit of science as a solution to pressing public health challenges. While we can celebrate the remarkable accomplishments of the biomedical research community, there is still much to do to bring the COVID-19 pandemic and other emerging threats under control. Now more than ever, scientists have a responsibility to communicate clearly and consistently with the public. We must tackle the deliberate misinformation that contributes to the reluctance of individuals and groups to get themselves and their children vaccinated. The NIH and the research community are actively engaging in numerous efforts to address the public's legitimate questions concerning COVID-19 vaccines including the COVID Community Corps and NIH initiatives such as the Vaccine Hesitancy Initiative and the Community Engagement Alliance (CEAL) Against COVID-19 Disparities. We are also continually improving the way we fund science to better address community concerns, such as an NIH-wide effort to increase and retain diverse participation in clinical trials so that the general public can understand and trust that the knowledge gained from the research that they fund will be applied in real-life clinical settings to allow them and their families to live longer and healthier lives.

The FY 2023 budget continues to advance NIH's long-standing commitment to investing in basic research and the arc of translation into clinical practice as the Nation adapts to meet the demands and possibilities in our changing world. 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 the hard work of standing up the new Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H) and leveraging its exciting new capabilities to speed the application and implementation of health breakthroughs.

In conclusion, the FY 2023 budget provides resources for NIH, and NIH-supported researchers around the country, to accelerate discoveries that will enhance our ability to prevent and cure disease.

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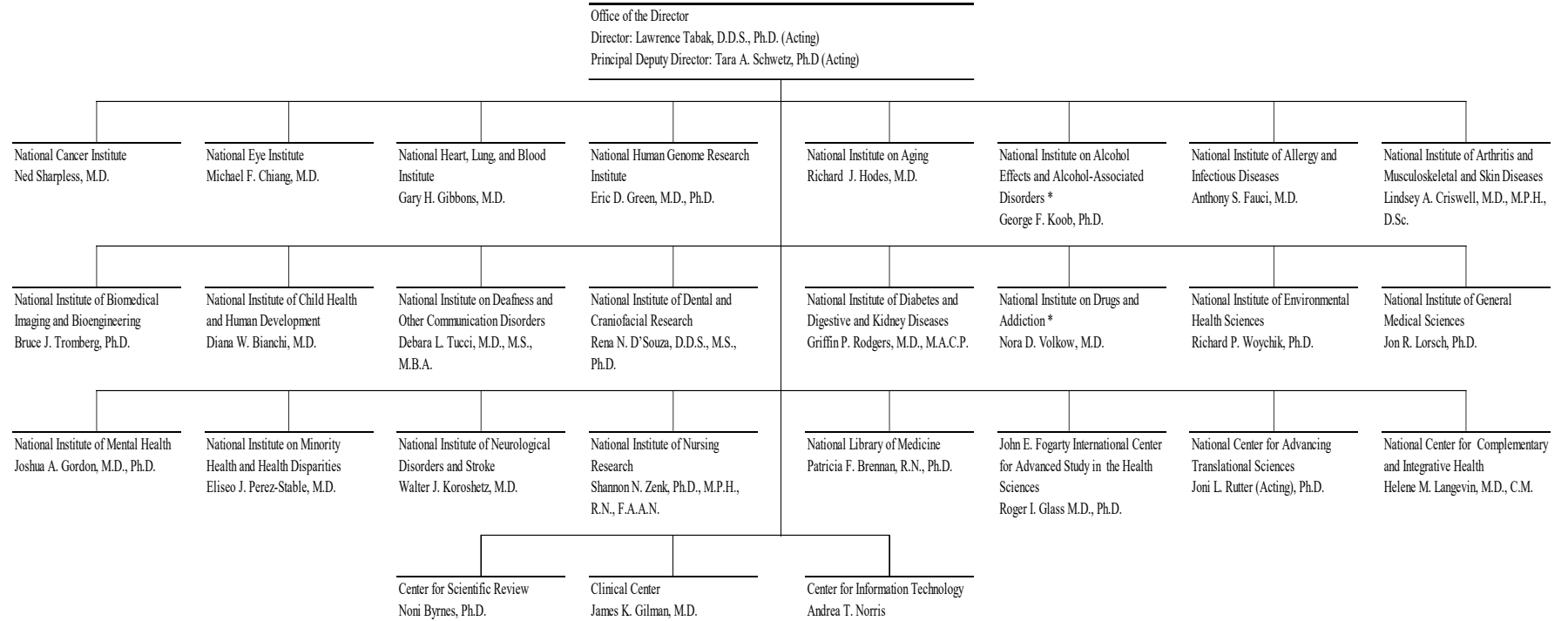
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ORGANIZATION CHART

National Institutes of Health



*The FY 2023 President's Budget proposes to rename the National Institute on Drug Abuse to the National Institute on Drugs and Addiction and to rename the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism to the National Institute on Alcohol Effects and Alcohol-Associated Disorders.