

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

Hearing on FY 2019 National Institutes of Health Budget Request

Good morning, Chairman Blunt, Ranking Member Murray, and distinguished Members of the Subcommittee. I am Francis S. Collins, M.D., Ph.D., and I have served as the Director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) since 2009. It is an honor to appear before you today.

Before I discuss NIH's diverse investments in biomedical research and some of the exciting scientific opportunities on the horizon, I want to thank this Subcommittee for your sustained commitment to NIH to ensure that our nation remains the global leader in biomedical research and advances in human health.

I want to personally express gratitude to this Subcommittee and its leadership for its support in crafting and

grant dollars to fund research, invest in NIH's buildings and facilities, and support NIH priority areas including combatting the opioid epidemic, advancing Precision Medicine, and investing in translational research.

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of NIH laboratories ranks near the lowest in the federal government due to the high

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opioids; search for new options for treating addiction and maintaining sobriety; continue to research how best to treat babies born in withdrawal through our ACT NOW trial; develop biomarkers to objectively measure pain; build a clinical trial network for pain research; and attempt to find non-addictive and non-pharmacological approaches to chronic pain. Thanks to your support, all hands are on deck at NIH for this public health crisis.

Another exciting area of continued investment in FY 2019, building on this Committee's long-standing support, is Precision Medicine. On May 6th, NIH officially launched the national roll-out of the *All of Us* Research Program.

NIH is the largest funder of basic biomedical research in the United States, providing a critical research foundation for both the public and private sector. Building on that solid foundation of basic research, NIH also supports translational research that turns observations in the laboratory, clinic, and community into interventions that improve the health of individuals and the public, whether those interventions be diagnostics, therapeutics, medical procedures, or behavioral changes. For example, Congress created the Cures Acceleration Network (CAN) at the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS) to advance the development of high-need cures and to reduce significant barriers between research discovery and clinical trials. For example, CAN currently supports NCATS' Tissue Chip for Drug Screening program, which was

Director to incentivize additional Institute and Center support for these researchers. NIH remains committed to the development, support, and retention of our next generation of investigators.

We have never witnessed a time of greater promise for advances in medicine than right now. Your support has been critical, and will continue to be. Thank you again for inviting NIH to testify today. We look forward to answering your questions.