

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

Hearing on FY 2020 National Institutes of Health Budget Request

Witness appearing before the

House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, Education, and Related Agencies

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Good morning, Chairwoman DeLauro, Ranking Member Cole, 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 Budget request for the upcoming fiscal year and some of the exciting scientific opportunities on the horizon, I want to express my gratitude to the leadership and members of this Subcommittee. In FY 2019, NIH received an increase of \$2 billion. I can promise you that we are investing those resources in groundbreaking research as quickly as we can.

Biomedical research at NIH seeks to push forward the frontier of knowledge, from basic science to translational research to clinical trials, and success relies on vision, risk-taking, and a tireless pursuit of the next scientific question. NIH will continue to invest in people, programs, infrastructure, and technology with these goals in mind, consistently striving for breakthroughs that culminate in improvements in human health and wellbeing. From harnessing new technologies to supporting the next generation of researchers, NIH will invest its resources to ensure that the U.S. remains at the forefront of innovation and discovery.

The sources The FY 2020 President's Budget provides \$34.4 billion for NIH, seeking to fund the

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This is a remarkable time in biomedical research. Truly exciting, world class science is taking place through NIH support, and leading to breakthroughs in multiple areas. I would like to provide just a few examples of the depth and breadth of the amazing research the FY 2020 Budget supports.

The FY 2020 Budget continues to invest in Precision Medicine. Less than one year ago, NIH formally launched national enrollment for the *All of Us* Research Program. This program is on pace to enroll one million or more U.S. volunteers in an ambitious effort to accelerate health research and medical breakthroughs. With this Committee's long-standing support, we are closer than ever to building the most diverse biomedical data resource of its kind. By analyzing individual differences in lifestyle, environment, and biology, researchers will uncover paths toward delivering precision medicine, an emerging approach for disease prevention and treatment.

As of March 27, 2019, more than 206,000 people have begun the enrollment process, and more than 124,000 have completed all the steps in the protocol. The *All of Us* Research Program is committed to engaging individuals from all walks of life, including those who may not have been asked to participate in research previously, and more than 75 percent of participants are from communities that have been underrepresented in biomedical research. This diversity has the power to revolutionize standards for inclusivity in research and for generalizability of biomedical research findings across many communities, with the ultimate goal of spurring discoveries that bring the promise of precision medicine to all of us. The FY 2020 Budget provides \$313 million to support the *All of Us* Research Program.

Millions of Americans across the Nation have been devastated by opioid misuse, addiction and overdose. To help bring scientific solutions to this crisis, and to provide safe and effective options for the more than 25 million Americans who suffer from daily chronic pain, NIH launched the Helping to End Addiction Long-term (HEAL) Initiative. This Committee made a historic investment of \$500 million in our work in FY 2018 and built upon that investment in FY 2019 with an additional investment of \$500 million. Through HEAL, NIH will build on basic science discoveries to accelerate the development of novel medications and devices to treat all aspects of the opioid addiction cycle, including chronic use, withdrawal symptoms, craving, relapse, and overdose. NIH has launched a series of new studies to test both new non-addictive medications and non-pharmacological strategies for pain management, with the goal of targeted treatments for the millions of Americans living with chronic pain. The FY 2020 Budget continues the special investment of \$500 million that was started in FY 2018, and supports a total of \$1.3 billion for opioids and pain research across NIH, ensuring that we continue to respond aggressively to the crisis of pain and addiction in our communities.

Cancer is the leading cause of death from disease among children and adolescents in the United States. Although substantial progress has been made in the treatment of several types of childhood cancer, progress against other types has been limited. Even when long-term survival is achieved, many survivors of childhood cancer may experience long-term adverse effects from the disease or its treatment. More research is needed to develop new, more-effective, and safer treatments for childhood cancer. The President recently launched an initiative to support pediatric cancer research. The FY 2020 Budget provides \$50 million for a data initiative that will support the development of new, more effective, and safer treatments

NIH is at the vanguard of biomedical research, leading the world in support of groundbreaking science. Thank you again for inviting NIH to testify today. We look forward to answering your questions.