



As Director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), I am pleased to present the Congressional Justification of the NIH fiscal year (FY) 2013 budget request, including the annual performance report and plan. This budget request for a \$30.860 billion total program level reflects the President's commitment to innovation and underscores America's leadership in biomedical research. The request highlights the critical importance of NIH's scientific mission to seek fundamental knowledge about living systems and to apply it in ways that enhance health, lengthen life, and reduce the burdens of illness and disability as well as advance the nation's economic well-being. The request will enable

NIH to invest in areas of extraordinary promise for biomedical and behavioral research and ensure that the scientific workforce remains vibrant and is prepared to tackle the major health challenges facing our population today and tomorrow.

NIH research has an impressive track record of producing tangible improvements in the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of disease. Thanks in large part to NIH investments, after three decades of scientific progress in HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment, we can begin to imagine an AIDS-free generation. We have seen, for example, dramatic reductions in death rates for coronary disease and for stroke (declining 60-70 percent in the last half century), tripling of the number of Americans living into their 90s over the past twenty years, and a substantial reduction in disability among all seniors. On the other end of the lifecycle, we have seen a 40 percent decline in infant mortality over 20 years and better treatments for premature and low-weight births.

Tomorrow's advances in health care depend on today's investments in research to: understand the fundamental causes and mechanisms of disease; design new technologies to accelerate these discoveries; find new ways of identifying and interrupting disease processes based on this understanding; and bring these new interventions into common practice so that all may benefit. This continuum of research depends on having a robust pipeline of creative and skillful investigators. With continued support, NIH investigators will help to revolutionize patient care, reduce the growth of health care costs, and generate significant national economic growth.

These are extraordinary times of unprecedented scientific opportunity and of significant economic stress for our nation. NIH must continue to seek innovative solutions to ensure rapid advances in science even in these uncertain economic times. Strategic investments will support research with the highest potential for improving public health and to preserve the scientific workforce. The FY 2013 budget request at \$30.860 billion will enable NIH to maintain progress in areas of highest promise while also allowing for unexpected breakthroughs.

Investment in the future of public health has never been more important. In addition to the health benefits to all Americans in the future, such investment can play a key role in reinvigorating the economy now. Numerous economic analyses have illustrated the role that NIH research plays in creating jobs and spurring economic growth. In the face of growing global competition investment in biomedical and behavioral research and the scientific workforce will propel scientific discovery for the benefit of human health and the U.S. economy,

both now and in the future. These benefits are substantial and fully justify NIH's FY 2013 budget request.

I welcome the opportunity to discuss this budget request and NIH's plans for FY 2013 and the years ahead.

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

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH**

**Volume I Overview**

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