Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology
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PREDICTABLE AND SUSTAINABLE FUNDING FOR NIH WILL DRIVE INNOVATION AND PROGRESS

Research supported by NIH is essential for improving health, reducing human suffering, and protecting the nation against new and emerging health threats. Because of the scale, scope, and time involved, it is the kind of investment that private industry could not afford to undertake. Unfortunately, due to several years of flat funding and spending cuts enacted in 2011, the NIH budget is insufficient to fund all of the critical research that needs to be done.

Data from the NIH web site analyzed by FASEB demonstrate how difficult times have become:

- In constant dollars (adjusted for inflation), the FY 2012 budget and the President's proposal for FY 2013 are $4 billion lower than the peak year (FY 2003) and at the lowest level since FY 2001 (Figure 1, NIH Appropriation in Current and Constant Dollars)
- The number of research project grants funded by NIH has declined every year since 2004 (Figure 2, Number of Research Project Grants)
- This trend is projected to continue in FY 2012 and FY 2013, when NIH will fund 3,100 fewer grants than in FY 2004 (Figure 2, Number of Research Project Grants)
- NIH made 8,765 competing (new and renewed) awards in FY 2011, more than 1,600 fewer than in FY 2003 (Figure 3, Number of Competing Awards)
- Success rates have fallen more than 14 percentage points in the past decade and are projected to decline even further in FY 2012 and 2013 (Figure 4, Success Rates)

Additional information about NIH research funding may be found on the FASEB web site.

NIH needs sustainable and predictable budget growth in order to continue to support scientific investigations that will improve the health of all Americans. Exciting new NIH initiatives are poised to accelerate our progress in the search for better treatments, and it would be tragic if we could not capitalize on the many opportunities before us. Without an increase in funding, however, NIH will have to sacrifice valuable lines of research to keep up with rising costs and new mandates.

The analyses described above clearly demonstrate that we have lost ground. If the supplemental appropriations are considered, the decline is much greater. NIH reached a capacity of more than $35 billion in FY 2010-11. The high demand for stimulus funding, and the exceptional research that it yielded, illustrate that the capacity of the research system is **at least $35 billion**.

To prevent further erosion of the nation's capacity for biomedical research, FASEB recommends an appropriation of at least $32.0 billion for the National Institutes of Health in FY 2013 as the first step of a program of sustained growth to keep pace with the increasing scientific opportunities and return to the demonstrated capacity of the research enterprise.

Figures

Figure 1

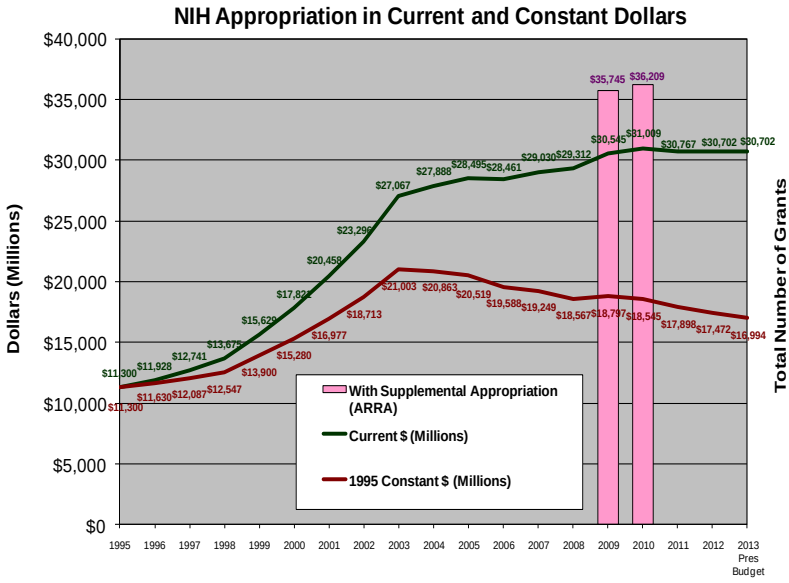


Figure 2

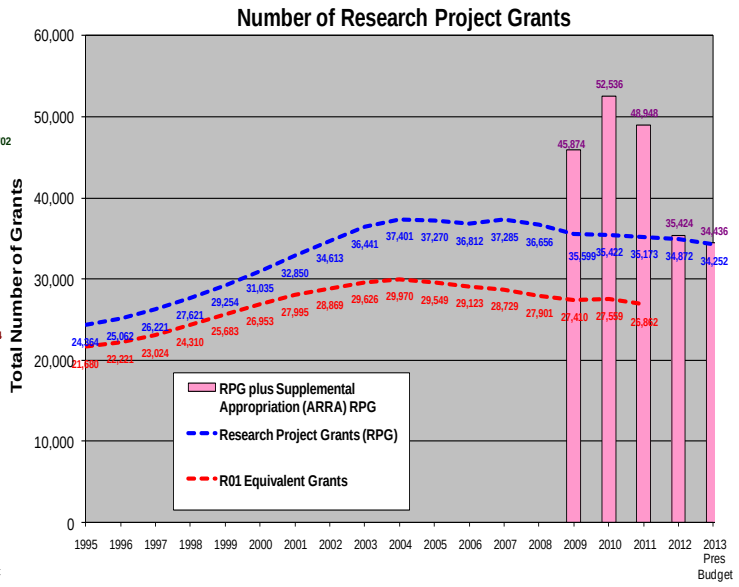


Figure 3

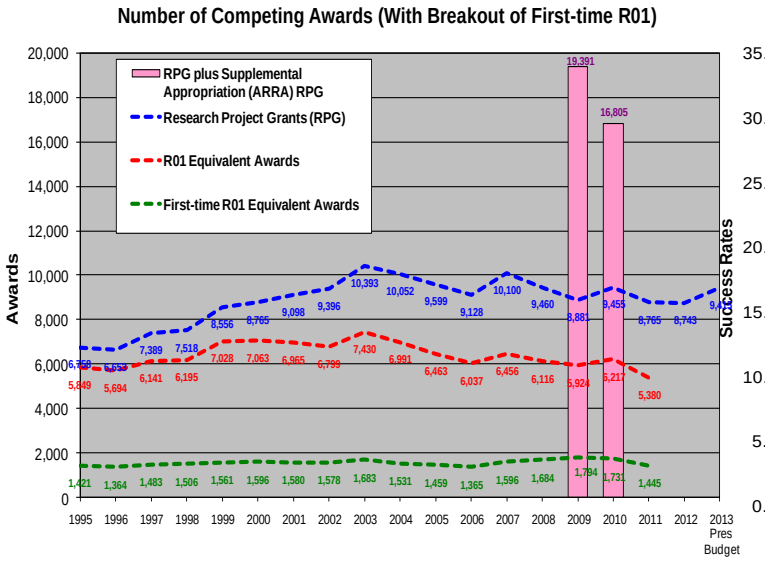
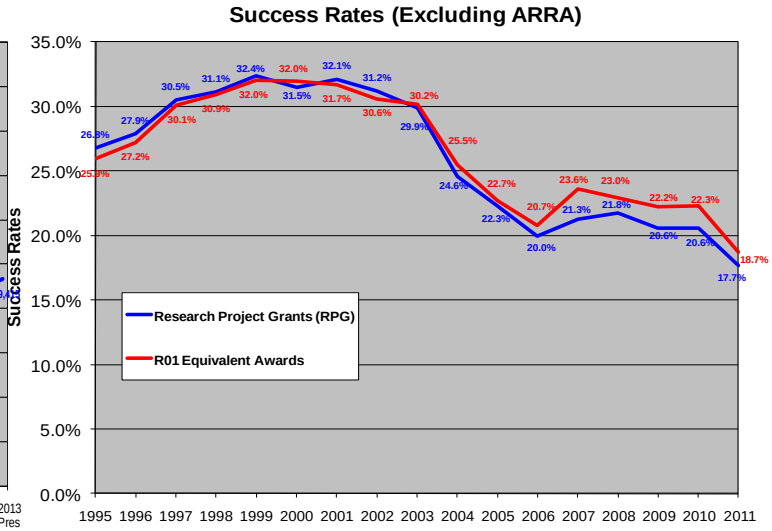


Figure 4



FASEB is composed of 26 societies with more than 100,000 members, making it the largest coalition of biomedical research associations in the United States. Celebrating 100 Years of Advancing the Life Sciences in 2012, FASEB is rededicating its efforts to advance health and well-being by promoting progress and education in biological and biomedical sciences through service to our member societies and collaborative advocacy.