



# FASEB

Federation of American Societies  
for Experimental Biology

*Representing Over 130,000 Researchers*

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Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB)

Testimony of the

**Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology**

Prepared for the

**House Committee on Appropriations**

**Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and**

**Related Agencies**

Representative Rosa DeLauro, Chair

Representative Tom Cole, Ranking Member

On

**FY 2020 Appropriations for the National Institutes of Health**

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The American Physiological Society • American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology • American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics  
American Society for Investigative Pathology • American Society for Nutrition • The American Association of Immunologists • American Association of Anatomists  
The Protein Society • Society for Developmental Biology • American Peptide Society • Association of Biomolecular Resource Facilities  
The American Society for Bone and Mineral Research • American Society for Clinical Investigation • Society for the Study of Reproduction • The Teratology Society  
The Endocrine Society • The American Society of Human Genetics • American College of Sports Medicine  
Biomedical Engineering Society • Genetics Society of America • The Histochemical Society • Society for Pediatric Research • Society for Glycobiology  
Association for Molecular Pathology • Society for Redox Biology and Medicine • Society For Experimental Biology and Medicine  
American Aging Association • U.S. Human Proteome Organization • Society of Toxicology

**The Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB) respectfully requests a minimum of \$41.6 billion in fiscal year (FY) 2020 for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) within the Department of Health and Human Services.**

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) is the nation's largest funder of biomedical research, providing competitive grants to more than 300,000 scientists working at universities, medical schools, independent research institutions, and companies across the country.

NIH is fueling new research breakthroughs that are transforming medicine. For example, a 2018 Nobel Prize recognized NIH-funded basic research that laid the foundation for cancer immunotherapy.<sup>1</sup> And new research may soon lead to more progress: a universal flu vaccine, a cure for sickle-cell disease, and new ways to combat the opioid epidemic.<sup>2,3,4</sup>

Innovations derived from basic biomedical research also lead to new companies and industries. The human genome project alone is estimated to have spurred nearly \$1 trillion of economic activity.<sup>5</sup>

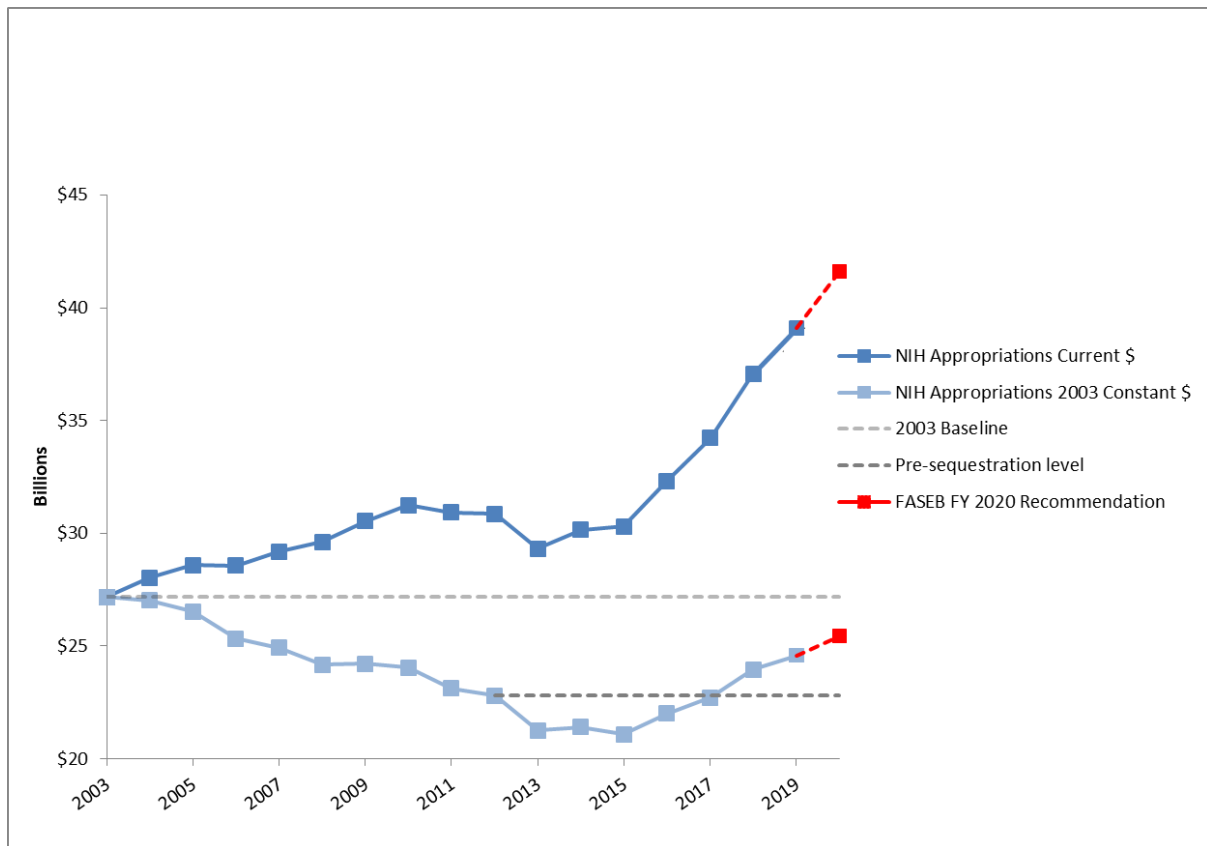
Congress's renewed commitment to NIH has enabled groundbreaking discoveries. But more work must be done to rebuild our nation's research capacity; in real dollars, the NIH budget is approximately 9.5 percent below the FY 2003 level (Figure 1).

Continued progress toward new cures and better therapies also requires strong support for early career scientists. The current funding environment makes it difficult for younger scientists to establish and maintain independent research careers, and to pursue innovative scientific directions.<sup>6</sup> Sufficient support is needed for these scientists who represent the future of biomedical research in the United States.

A \$41.6 billion budget (\$2.5 billion above FY 2019) would allow NIH to accelerate progress in all areas of biomedical science and help train the next generation of scientists. This funding level could support about 400 additional young investigators; provide \$500 million already authorized through the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures Act for key research initiatives; and bolster other areas in urgent need of additional resources, including investment in new research technologies such as cryogenic electron microscopy.

**FASEB FY 2020 recommendation: at least \$41.6 billion for NIH**

Figure 1: NIH Appropriations, FY 2003-2020



<sup>1</sup> [NIH grantee wins 2018 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine, October, 2018](#)

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<sup>2</sup> [Universal Influenza Vaccine Research](#) National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease, Bethesda, MD

<sup>3</sup> [NIH launches initiative to accelerate genetic therapies to cure sickle cell disease](#) , September, 2018

<sup>4</sup> [NIH HEAL Initiative](#)

<sup>5</sup> [Battelle/United for Medical Research. The impact of genomics on the U.S. economy](#) , June 2013

<sup>6</sup> [Sustaining Discovery in the Biological and Biomedical Sciences: A Framework for Discussion](#). Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology, Bethesda, MD.