
Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology

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SEQUESTRATION AND FLAT FUNDING FOR NIH THREATEN INNOVATION AND PROGRESS

NIH-funded biomedical research improves health, reduces human suffering, and protects the nation against new and emerging health threats. Because of the scale, scope, and time required, it is not the kind of investment that private industry could afford to undertake on its own. Unfortunately, due to several years of flat funding and spending cuts enacted in 2011, the current NIH budget is insufficient to fund all of the critical research that needs to be done. Further cuts due to the sequestration mandated by the Budget Control Act will jeopardize our national leadership in biomedical research and delay future progress.

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

- In constant dollars (adjusted for inflation), the NIH budget in fiscal year (FY) 2012 budget is \$4 billion less than it was in FY 2003 and is at its 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. In FY 2012 NIH funded 3,100 fewer grants than eight years earlier (Figure 2, Number of Research Project Grants)
- NIH made 9,032 competing awards in FY 2011, nearly 1,400 fewer than in FY 2003 (Figure 3, Number of Competing Awards)
- Success rates have fallen 15 percentage points since 1999 and are projected to decline even further in 2013 (Figure 4, Success Rates).

[Additional information](#) about NIH research funding may be found on the FASEB web site.

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.

We are losing ground. If the supplemental appropriations are considered, the decline is much greater. The high demand for funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, and the exceptional research that it yielded, illustrate that the capacity of the research system is **at least \$35 billion**.

We cannot afford to sacrifice our public investment in research. Additional cuts in the NIH budget will prevent critical projects, such as the development of a universal flu vaccine, from being completed, force the closure of laboratories across the country, and cost thousands of highly-trained researchers their jobs. FASEB urges Congress to stop sequestration and sustain the federal investment in NIH.

Figures

Figure 1

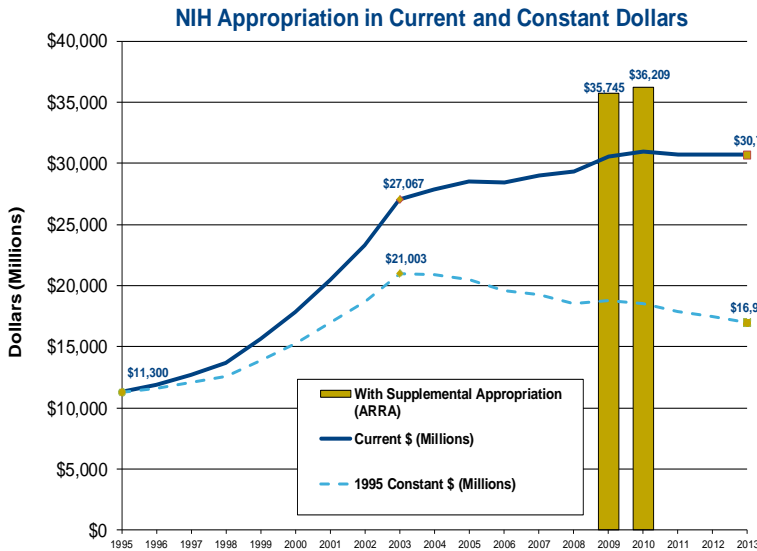


Figure 2

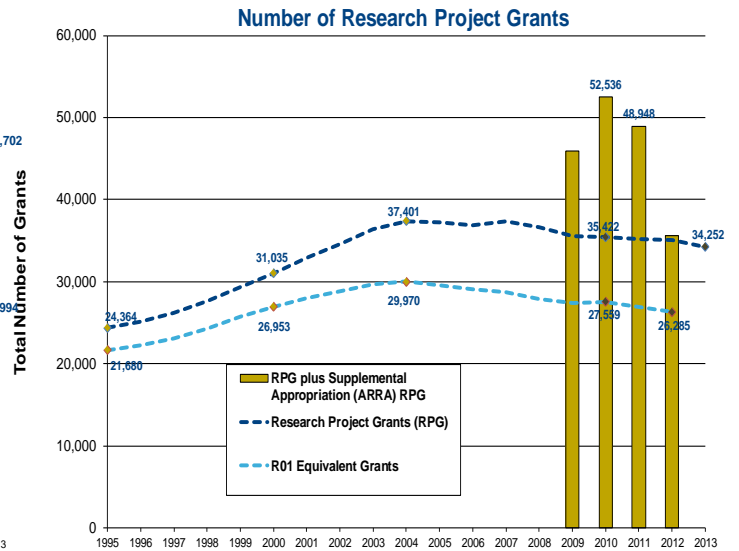


Figure 3

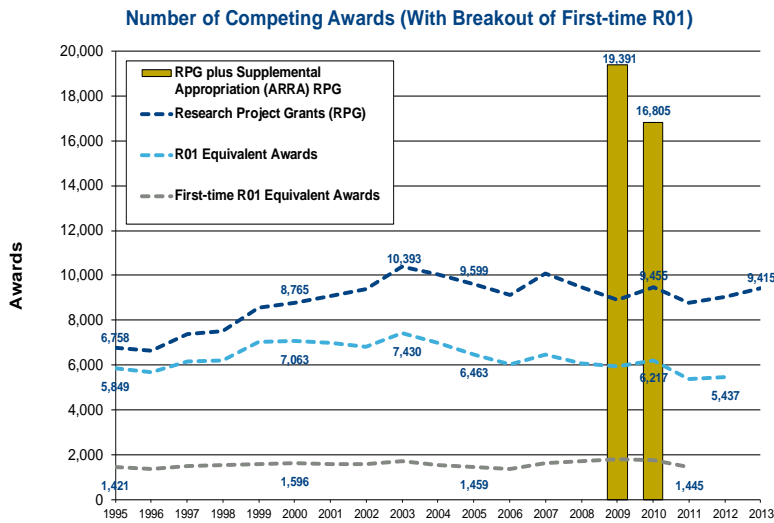
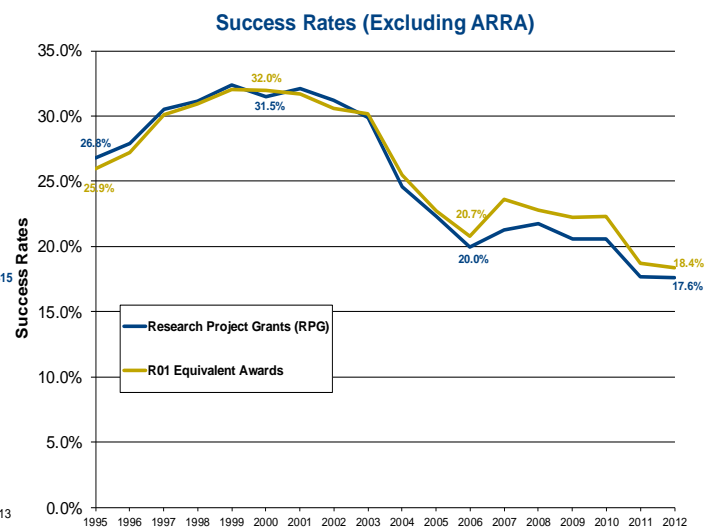


Figure 4



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. Our mission is to advance health and welfare by promoting progress and education in biological and biomedical sciences through service to our member societies and collaborative advocacy.