

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

Research Conducted and Supported by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in
Addressing Emerging and Re-emerging Infectious Diseases Including Zika Virus Disease

Testimony before the
Senate Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies

Anthony S. Fauci, M.D.

Director

National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
National Institutes of Health

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disease-specific research as well as broad-spectrum approaches. NIAID maximizes its efforts by prioritizing

and GBS; and to develop better diagnostics, vaccines and treatments, and new methods of vector control. Currently, no vaccines or specific therapeutics are available to prevent or treat Zika virus disease. Improved diagnostic tests also are needed because Zika virus infection causes non-specific symptoms and can be difficult to distinguish from other mosquito-borne infections such as dengue, malaria, and chikungunya in antibody screening tests. Moreover, current antibody screening tests can be falsely positive or inconclusive if the individual was previously infected

models to test candidate countermeasures; development of rapid, sensitive, and specific diagnostic tests; and discovery and preclinical development of new therapeutics to treat disease

sometime-serious illness

employ this knowledge to develop needed tools to diagnose, treat, and prevent disease caused by this virus.