DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

Hearing on the FY 2025 Budget Request for the National Institutes of Health

Witness appearing before the

Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, Education, and Related Agencies

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Good morning, Chair Baldwin, Ranking Member Capito, and distinguished Members of the Subcommittee. I am Monica Bertagnolli, M.D., Director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Thank you for the invitation to appear before you today. It is an honor to lead the NIH, guide the work of a remarkable research community and provide stewardship of public resources to enhance the lives of all Americans.

I am grateful for the

A Reinvigorated Cancer Moonshot

In FY 2025, the President's Reignited Cancer Moonshot Initiative[1] will support priority investments to advance the goal of cutting America's cancer death rate by 50 percent by 2047. Since it was established in 2016, the Beau Biden Cancer Moonshot has supported over 300 research projects that pushed the boundaries of discovery and collaboration on behalf of cancer patients. The President's FY 2025 Budget requests $716 million in discretionary funding.

In addition to discretionary resources, the budget also proposes to reauthorize the 21st Century Cures Act Cancer Moonshot program through FY 2026 and provide $2.9 billion in mandatory funding in FY 2025 and FY 2026, $1.448 billion each year. In total, the budget proposes $2.164 billion in combined discretionary and mandatory funding for FY 2025.

To attain the goal of a 50 percent reduction in cancer mortality, funding for the Moonshot will continue to focus on substantially increasing the number and diversity of people who participate in National Cancer Institute-sponsored clinical trials to develop new prevention, diagnosis, and treatment approaches. Additionally, making faster progress is critical against cancers that have proven the most difficult to treat, such as pancreatic cancer, glioblastoma, as well as rare cancers and certain pediatric tumors. The FY 2025 request will build on research supported through the Moonshot that led to foundational advancements in immunotherapy, progress in childhood cancer research, and expanded use of proven strategies for cancer prevention and early detection to reduce cancer risk and disparities.

Revolutionizing Mental Health with Precision Medicine

Scientific and clinical advances are rapidly advancing mental health care in the United

[1] https://www.cancer.gov/research/key-initiatives/moonshot-cancer-initiative

States. Progress in basic science has led to new tools and resources that enable investigators to gain significant insight into the complex interactions between the brain, environment, and

conducted and to maximize the impact of our investments.

Long COVID

For many, symptoms of COVID-19 persist long after the initial, acute phase of COVID-19 infection has ended.

Data Sharing Across the Research Ecosystem

The lifeblood of a research-driven Agency is its data, and for NIH, this includes data spanning fundamental research (basic science) generated in laboratories, large health care systems, and individual communities. The FY 2025 Budget includes $30 million for the National Library of Medicine to serve as a focal point to support data sharing and use for biomedical, behavioral, and social sciences research across the Nation. NIH is committed to harnessing the power of artificial intelligence and machine learning to maximize benefits from this wealth of data to advance research across diverse fields, diseases, and scientific communities. Looking ahead, advanced scientific methods, new data analytics, and technologies are unlocking possibilities to leverage data in ways that achieve faster and more definitive results. These approaches are only as good as the data used to train them. For research extending to the clinic, this requires data that are comprehensive and include all communities that we serve. For example, NIH's AIM-AHEAD program seeks to promote broad researcher participation and increase the variety of data in the AI/machine learning field. NIH has launched innovative and ambitious initiatives to propel the fusion of biomedicine and artificial intelligence and machine learning, such as the Bridge2AI program, which aims to generate new flagship data sets and best practices for machine learning analysis.

The NIH Office of Data Science Strategy will work with NLM to increase capacity for data hosting, development of programs, and infrastructure to deliver minimal cost access to open-industry data standards, support for broad access to advanced analytics and computational power, and support for education and workforce development, including promoting participation by population groups not currently represented.

These efforts are informed by the NIH Strategic Plan for Data Science[4] and the NIH Policy for Data Management and Sharing[5] which aim to promote responsible sharing and management of data collected from NIH-supported research. Implemented in January 2023, the data management and sharing policy reflects NIH's longstanding commitment to making the results of the research it supports with public funds available to the public by expecting that NIH-supported researchers maximize appropriate data sharing.

Strengthening Biodefense

The FY 2025 budget will support biodefense activities across HHS with mandatory funding of $20.0 billion, including $2.7 billion for NIH research and development of vaccines, diagnostics, and therapeutics against high-priority viral families, biosafety and biosecurity, and expanding laboratory capacity and clinical trial infrastructure. NIH will conduct and support preclinical and clinical research on vaccines and vaccine platforms, monoclonal antibodies, and novel adjuvants to provide protection against prototype or representative pathogens. It will support the development and clinical trials of additional therapeutic candidates, including host-tissue-directed therapies, and develop next-generation diagnostics to fill critical gaps, such as the need for affordable and accessible at-home tests that are as reliable as lab-based PCR tests.

Buildings and Facilities

Safe, reliable infrastructure and facilities are essential to pursuit the cutting-edge research within the NIH intramural research program. The FY 2025 request of $350 million enables NIH to continue to address the Backlog of Maintenance and Repairs (BMAR) which was estimated at $3.8 billion as of the end of FY 2023. This request enables NIH to continue to

[4] https://datascience.nih.gov/sites/default/files/NIH_Strategic_Plan_for_Data_Science_Final_508.pdf
[5] https://sharing.nih.gov/data-management-and-sharing-policy

implement recommendations from the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and