



As the Director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), I am pleased to present the Congressional Justification of the NIH fiscal year (FY) 2015 budget request. This budget request for \$30.362 billion total program level reflects the President's and the Secretary's commitment to improve the health of all Americans and maintain the country's leadership in the biomedical sciences. The request highlights pioneering research investments that will increase understanding of underlying disease causes and spur development of innovative diagnostics, treatments, and preventive approaches to improve health. With this budget request, NIH will be able to recruit and support a talented and diverse workforce to bring new insights to our understanding of biology and to advance the translation of these insights into improved health for all.

As stewards of the Nation's principal investment in biomedical science, NIH engages in a dynamic, multidimensional process for determining how best to distribute its resources. In order to address the public health needs of today while preparing ourselves for any emerging and unexpected needs of tomorrow, NIH works diligently to plan both short- and long-term research investments. Such planning involves careful balancing of basic science and applied studies that will translate basic knowledge into new strategies for enhancing health and reducing illness and disability. The strength of NIH's approach is evidenced by the extraordinary number of innovative discoveries in biomedical science that have been produced through NIH-funded research.

NIH investments in cutting edge technology will also continue to drive economic development in the United States. For example, innovative advances in genomics and imaging technologies, as well as computing power for working with big data, will stimulate new businesses while also catalyzing advances in innumerable scientific fields, ranging from traumatic brain injury and Alzheimer's disease to advances in diagnosis and treatment for cancer, diabetes, and autism. Overall, the FY 2015 budget request will enable NIH to continue its investments in groundbreaking research, scientific workforce training, and technologies of the future. In addition, NIH is seeking additional funding for two high priority initiatives that promise to generate significant advances in biomedical research - the NIH Brain Research through Advancing Innovative Neurotechnologies (BRAIN) Initiative and the Big Data to Knowledge (BD2K) Initiative. This budget request provides the flexibility for NIH to prioritize research to reduce disease burden, increase disease prevention, and respond to emerging public health needs.

I look forward to the opportunity to discuss this FY 2015 budget request and NIH's plans for the future.

Francis S. Collins, M.D., Ph.D.

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH**

Volume 1 – Overview

FY 2015 Budget

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