Medical Research Fact Sheet on NIH

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the scientific research community are partners in a national investment that improves health, patient outcomes and quality of life while adding strength to the nation's economy. This longstanding bipartisan committement to the NIH has established the United States as the world leader in medical research and innovation.

As the primary federal agency responsible for conducting medical research, NIH-funded research drives scientific innovation, improves diagnostics, and develops prevention strategies for more effective treatments. The work conducted at more than 2,500 research institutions, supporting over 300,000 researchers, yields life-changing benefits for every American.

NIH-Funded Research Reaches Every American

Over the last 40 years, NIH funded research has resulted in:

- Life expectancy for the average American has increased by eight years.
- Death rates for all cancers combined has declined since the early 1990s for adults and since the 1970s for children. Cancer death rates dropped by about 1.5% per year, or 15% in total from 2003 - 2012.
- Deaths from heart disease, cancer, stroke, diabetes, unintentional injuries, and many other conditions have also declined.
- Millions of Americans have improved quality of life through medical innovations like cochlear implants and hearing aids, a better understanding of opportunities to prevent and treat addiction, and promising therapies to potentially restore vision, or relieve symptoms of Parkinson's disease.
- From 1996 - 2014, over 26,000 opiate overdoses were reversed by non-medical personnel using naloxone, developed primarily from NIH research.
- Deep brain stimulation is being used to help relieve symptoms of Parkinson's disease and Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder (OCD), in part to NIH-funded research.
- NIH investment in drug research and development contributed to all drug development between 2010 - 2016; a total of 210 drugs.

NIH-Funded Research Benefits the Economy

Through the NIH, the federal government plays a critical role supporting biomedical research that might not be conducted otherwise, but is essential to improving our understanding of medicine. When these efforts show potential, the private sector is incentivized to invest in research and development to bring new products to market. This drives the ongoing pursuit of improved health through medical research and yields dividends for the nation's economic strength by creating high-paying, skilled jobs, new products, and improved technologies. The federal investment in NIH:

- NIH is the largest public funder of biomedical research in the world, investing more than $30 billion in taxpayer dollars to achieve its mission.
- Each $1 million of NIH funding has been estimated to create 17.5 jobs in the sponsoring institutions and their supply chains.
- Stimulated an estimated $65 billion in new economic activity and supported over 379,000 jobs nationwide in 2016.
- Discoveries arising from NIH-funded research provide a foundation for the U.S. biomedical industry, which contributed $69 billion to our GDP and supported 7 million jobs.
- Imaging research lead to patents demonstrating significant economic impact.

Imagine what these facts might be if NIH had more funding.

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