

November 26, 2018

Dear (Member of Congress),

As a practicing investigator, I am writing to express my appreciation and gratitude for your support of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and increasing its budget these last few years. Such additional funding directly benefits investigators like myself. I urge you to continue to provide critical increases in funding for the NIH this coming fiscal year.

It is important to me that you understand why your support and knowledge of NIH impact medical imaging research.

**88% of all diseases studied at the NIH utilize medical imaging.**

Medical imaging often refers to several advanced tools to treat and track disease in patients including: magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), computerized tomography (CT), ultrasound, and nuclear medicine (e.g., PET scans). Medical imaging research is the scientific development of those tools and can mean two things; it can be research that advances the actual instrumentation (i.e., making a new imaging device, such as the MRI), or it can be research that uses the latest technology to advance our understanding of a disease, its diagnoses, or treatment. In both instances, the NIH has played an integral role in imaging research for the past 40+ years.

Basic discoveries in medical imaging technology development are a common tool utilized by physicians to benefit patients by creating the opportunity for earlier and/or more accurate diagnosis, improved and enhanced treatments and better health outcomes. For heart disease, cancer, Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, mental health, and numerous others, advances in imaging technologies are increasingly giving researchers in other areas of science game-changing tools to tackle the diseases that they study.

On behalf of all your constituents, including patients, physicians, and scientists like me who depend on the NIH for its support of innovative and interdisciplinary research, I thank you for your consideration of the importance of maintaining consistent funding increases to NIH. Through your support America will retain its position as the world leader in science and for NIH to be a national priority toward improving Americans health and well-being.

Warm Regards,

(You!)

**For more information please contact:**

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