



President's Budget Delays Medical Progress

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), two of our nation's premier biomedical research institutes, have been underfunded for more than five years. Last year, the President vetoed budget legislation passed by Congress that would have given desperately needed funds to NIH and the CDC. Now, with his proposed 2009 budget, the President seeks to worsen an already dire funding situation, further compromising the work of NIH and the CDC. His proposed budget for NIH would not even keep up with inflation, and the CDC's budget would be slashed by \$475 million. The President's funding cuts would undermine our efforts to fight HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis (TB), malaria, and numerous other diseases that are devastating our world – and put America's health at risk.

The diseases that have the biggest impact on global health are also important to Americans for one simple reason: Epidemics abroad can become epidemics at home. Research conducted by NIH and the CDC is critical to developing the tools necessary to combat these deadly diseases. Americans and millions of people around the world will pay dearly for the President's funding cuts: Delays in medical progress inevitably result in widespread illness and millions of lives lost.

Research Is Crucial for U.S. and Global Health

Turning the tide against complicated, deadly infectious disease pandemics such as HIV/AIDS, TB, and malaria requires a comprehensive, multifaceted strategy. Research needs to be the cornerstone of any such strategy. Research is the *only* way to identify and develop new vaccines, diagnostics, and treatments. Therefore, research is absolutely crucial to making progress in U.S. and global health.

Research that yields new and improved medical interventions will also increase the effectiveness of U.S. global aid programs that are already in place, such as the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and the President's Malaria Initiative (PMI).

What Amount of Funding Is Needed?

NIH and the CDC are the U.S. research centers for global health. Current global health spending for these agencies is significantly short of what is needed.

■ National Institutes of Health (NIH)

In order to simply maintain existing programs, overall funding for NIH must keep up with inflation, which is estimated to be 3.7 percent in 2009. However, a 3.7 percent “increase” would not enable NIH to expand its efforts to combat disease—rather, it would merely allow the agency to tread water. To be adequately funded, NIH needs an additional 3.0 percent increase above inflation, for an overall increase of 6.7 percent. This amounts to a total NIH budget of \$31.1 billion in 2009.

The two NIH agencies that are the most focused on global health issues, the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) and the Fogarty International Center, each need their own funding increases to make necessary advances and address historic underfunding of global health research.

■ NIAID

Funding that contains only an adjustment for inflation is not enough to address research spending needs for HIV/AIDS, TB, malaria, and other infectious diseases that disproportionately affect the developing world. To move forward in the fight against these diseases, NIAID needs \$5 billion in fiscal year 2009. This includes an increase of \$83.1 million, on top of the overall NIH increase of 6.7 percent.

We determined the necessary funding level for NIAID by examining world-wide research needs for HIV/AIDS vaccines and microbicides, malaria, TB, and neglected tropical diseases. These research needs are based on the assessments of numerous organizations (e.g., Global Network for NTD Control, AVAC, IAVI, UNAIDS, Alliance for Microbicide Development, Roll Back Malaria, WHO, Stop TB Partnership). To fully address research needs in these areas (while maintaining the agency’s current share of the world’s public sector spending), NIAID would need \$582 million more than it is currently budgeted. To implement this increase in a fiscally responsible time frame, our calculations spread the \$582 million increase over seven years, yielding \$83.1 million per year.

■ Fogarty International Center

The Fogarty International Center addresses health issues that are devastating low-income countries around the world. To make progress in combating diseases such as HIV/AIDS, TB, and malaria, the Fogarty Center would need a 25 percent

increase above its 2008 funding level. As with the recommended adjustment for NIAID, the adjustment for the center would also be spread over seven years. In 2009, this would amount to an additional \$2.4 million for the Fogarty Center (on top of the overall NIH adjustment of 6.7 percent) or \$74 million in total funding.

■ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

The President's budget would cut funding for the CDC's core programs to \$5.9 billion. In 2008, the CDC received about \$6.4 billion. This monumental cut would undermine the CDC's ability to respond to public health emergencies in the U.S. and around the world, placing everyone's health at risk. The CDC needs a substantial budget increase to address underfunding in recent years – it needs a budget of \$7.4 billion for its core programs in 2009.

■ CDC's Global Health Programs

As with the CDC's overall budget, funding for the CDC's global health programs has also been shortchanged. We recommend that funding for the CDC's global health programs be increased over four years to a total of \$512 million, updated annually thereafter for inflation. This amounts to \$405.5 million in 2009, which is a \$35.5 million increase above 2008.

President's Proposal Falls Short of What's Needed

Although biomedical research is crucial to improving the health of the U.S. and the world, the President has repeatedly slashed the federal biomedical research budget, including funding for research at NIH and the CDC. More is needed to make up for past years' woefully inadequate funding, yet the President has once again proposed budget cuts for both agencies.

The President recommended a budget of just \$29.5 billion for NIH in 2009. That's a **shortfall of \$1.6 billion for overall NIH funding**. NIAID and the Fogarty Center would be hard hit by the President's budget. He recommended \$4.57 billion for NIAID in 2009 (including \$300 million in funding that would be passed on to another non-NIH program). With \$5 billion needed, that amounts to a **shortfall of about \$430 million for NIAID**. He also recommended a budget of just \$67 million for the Fogarty Center in 2009. This amounts to a **10 percent (\$7 million) shortfall for Fogarty**.

The CDC's global health programs are also under attack in the President's budget. He recommended just \$302 million for the CDC's global health programs in 2009. That is a **shortfall of \$103.5 million for CDC's global health programs** in 2009.

The World's Most Devastating Diseases

HIV/AIDS

There are now more than 1 million Americans who are infected with HIV, and about 55,000 Americans are newly infected each year. Worldwide, 33 million people are living with HIV/AIDS.

Tuberculosis (TB)

In 2006, there were 13,779 Americans with active TB infections. Numerous additional Americans have latent TB and are at risk of developing active, contagious TB. Worldwide, about 9 million people develop TB each year, and 2 million of them die from this terrible disease.

Malaria

From 1957 to 2003, there were 63 outbreaks of malaria here in the U.S. Globally, between 350 and 500 million people get malaria each year. Unfortunately, resistance to anti-malarial drugs is growing rapidly, and a malaria vaccine does not yet exist.

Adequate Funding Is Essential

Global health matters to the U.S. It is in our national interest to care about global health because diseases do not observe national borders. It is in our economic interest to care about global health because we are part of a global economy where decreased productivity in one region of the world affects economies elsewhere, including our own. What's more, U.S. efforts to improve global health serve as a powerful diplomatic tool.

Providing adequate funding for biomedical research is essential for us to develop medical advances that will improve U.S. and global health. Funding for NIH and the CDC is absolutely essential to realizing that goal. Americans and others around the world are looking to NIH and the CDC for new medical advances and a healthier tomorrow. The President's proposed budget shortchanges that research and puts U.S. and global health at risk.