

Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research Fact Sheet on NIH

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The partnership between the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and America's scientific research community is a national investment in improving health and quality of life, and strengthening the nation's economy. The nation's longstanding, bipartisan commitment to NIH has established the United States as the world leader in medical research and innovation.

As the primary federal agency responsible for conducting and supporting medical research, NIH-funded research drives scientific innovation and develops new and better diagnostics, prevention strategies, and more effective treatments. This work – **conducted at more than 2,500 universities, medical schools, teaching hospitals, and research institutions in all 50 states** – yields life-changing benefits for every American.

AMERICANS OVERWHELMINGLY SUPPORT MEDICAL RESEARCH

The dual opportunity to improve both the nation's physical and fiscal health has led Americans overwhelmingly to support investments in medical research. In a June 2016 poll of registered voters in 12 battleground states sponsored jointly by the Galen Institute and Center Forward:

- **91%** expressed support for sustaining **both public and private sector investments** in medical research;
- **88%** agreed that policies should facilitate **new partnerships among government, industry, and academic stakeholders**; and
- **65%** indicated that support for medical discoveries should be a **priority for the President in his first 100 days** in office, and **78%** indicated it should be a **priority for Congress**.

NIH-FUNDED RESEARCH REACHES EVERY AMERICAN

The nation invests less than \$100 per person annually for all the research conducted and supported by NIH, yet the return on investment has been spectacular. Over the last 40 years:

- life expectancy for the average American has increased by eight years;
- deaths from heart disease, cancer, stroke, diabetes, unintentional injuries, and numerous other conditions have declined; and
- quality of life for millions of Americans has been improving through medical innovations such as 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, among other examples.

NIH-FUNDED RESEARCH BENEFITS THE ECONOMY

Through NIH, the federal government plays an irreplaceable role in supporting biomedical research that is inherently inefficient for industry to conduct but is essential to inform our fundamental understanding of medicine. Once such efforts show potential, the private sector is incentivized to invest in research and development to bring new products to market. Thus, the ongoing pursuit of improved health through medical research also yields dividends for the nation's economic strength by creating high-paying, skilled jobs, new products, and improved technologies. In fact, the federal investment in NIH:

- **catalyzes additional investment from the private sector** of \$8.38 for every \$1 increase in public basic research after 8 years, and \$2.35 for every \$1 increase in public clinical research after 3 years;
- stimulated an estimated **\$60 billion in new economic activity** and supported over **350,000 jobs** nationwide in 2015; and
- has led to billions in societal savings generated by a healthier population, such as the **\$37.1 billion in net economic gain** afforded by an NIH-funded clinical trial on postmenopausal hormone therapy published in 2002.