



THE AD HOC GROUP FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH FUNDING

For immediate release
July 17, 2002

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Ad Hoc Group Commends Senators Harkin, Specter for Doubling NIH Budget

The patients and scientists represented by the Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research Funding applaud the Senate Labor-HHS Appropriations Subcommittee, and in particular Chairman Tom Harkin (D-Iowa) and Ranking Member Arlen Specter (R-Pa.), for their commitment and leadership in achieving the goal of doubling the National Institutes of Health budget in five years. The Subcommittee's mark yesterday of \$27.2 billion for the National Institutes of Health (NIH), completes a process that began with the FY 1999 cycle. "Five years ago we had a goal," said Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research Funding Chairman Richard M. Knapp, Ph.D., "but it took the relentless determination and perseverance of Senators Harkin and Specter to bring that vision to reality. Due in large part to their leadership, we have been able to accelerate the pace of scientific discovery, revolutionize the practice of medicine, and bring hope to millions of Americans afflicted with crippling diseases and disabilities."

Doubling the NIH budget will help create new diagnostic methods, new treatments, new vaccines, and new cures. The additional resources provided by the Subcommittee will enable American scientists to address the burgeoning scientific opportunities and new health challenges that continue to confront us. More importantly, these resources have transformed the medical research enterprise, enabling us to more quickly translate basic research breakthroughs into clinical practice.

The Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research Funding thanks Senators Harkin and Specter for their leadership and support, and looks forward to continuing to work with them to sustain the momentum of NIH-funded research so that it continues to be able to meet the ever-evolving responsibility of improving the health of all Americans.

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The Ad Hoc Group is a coalition of more than 300 patient and voluntary health groups, medical and scientific societies, academic and research organizations, and industry. The Ad Hoc Group has one mission: to enhance the federal investment in biomedical, behavioral, and population-based research by increasing the funding for the National Institutes of Health.



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PRESS RELEASE

July 17, 2002

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ALLIANCE FOR AGING RESEARCH HAILS BIPARTISANSHIP IN CONGRESS FOR COMPLETING THE COMMITMENT TO NIH AND TO AGING AMERICANS *Senators Specter and Harkin Lead the Way to Doubling the NIH Budget*

WASHINGTON, DC: The Alliance For Aging Research commends Congress for its bipartisan achievement in completing a 5-year commitment to double federal funding for medical research. Fulfilling this pledge will provide the National Institutes of Health with the needed funds to make a difference in the lives of millions of Americans. Senators Arlen Specter (R-PA) and Tom Harkin (D-IA) should be especially applauded for their leadership and their continued dedication to science and Americans suffering from serious and life-threatening diseases.

For over four years, the Alliance for Aging Research has been actively working with scores of not-for-profit research and patient-support organizations to urge Congress to carry out the ambitious request to double the NIH budget. In a joint report released this past April, the Task Force for Aging Research Funding, including more than 50 organizations headed by the Alliance, called for a total U.S. budget of \$27.3 billion for biomedical and behavioral research for fiscal year 2003.

"Congress and the President have made good on an awesome promise to the American people," said Daniel Perry, executive director of the Alliance for Aging Research. "We celebrate this decision to invest in research that will cure, prevent or postpone many diseases of aging."

In less than 10 years, America's oldest Baby Boomers will begin swelling the Medicare rolls. By the year 2030, some 75 million people — twice as many as today — will be at least 65 years of age. It is estimated that health costs of the oldest and sickest of that population could increase six-fold with the pending Senior Boom. Greater research is needed to prepare for this age explosion.

"The unprecedented aging of the American population alone justifies such an aggressive investment in physical and mental health science," stated Perry. "However, because of this age boom, we have to look ahead and continue the federal commitment for years to come. For the sake of the patients and the scientists, creating a boom and bust funding cycle for health research can be destructive. To make a long-term impact, we need to continue to push for reasonable growth to the NIH budget."

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[Editor's Notes: Interviews with Daniel Perry may be arranged by calling 202.293.2856. Copies of the 2002 Task Force for Aging Research Funding Report may be obtained by calling 202.293.2856 or on this website <http://www.agingresearch.org/>]

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APS Commends Senate for Doubling the NIH Budget

The American Psychological Society wishes to express its thanks and gratitude to the United States Senate for fulfilling their commitment to double the NIH budget in a five-year period. Under the leadership of Senators Harkin and Specter, the Appropriations subcommittee for Health, Education, Labor and Pensions have helped make this vision a reality.

The advances in behavioral science that are made possible by this budget increase are astounding. The National Cancer Institute (NCI), always a leader in biomedical research, is now a worldwide leader in behavioral research as well. The interactions between behavior and biology are indisputable, and are exemplified by NCI's Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences. NCI's comprehensive behavioral science research program ranges from basic behavioral science to research on the development, testing and dissemination of disease prevention and health promotion interventions in areas such as tobacco use, diet, and even sun protection. NCI's Behavioral Program has expanded to five branches, including a basic biobehavioral research branch, a health communication and informatics research branch, and the tobacco control research branch. The transdisciplinary research conducted by NCI is an example of the new path for science, as disciplines are only made stronger when complimented by others.

At the National Institute on Drug Abuse, behavioral research plays an important role in NIDA's search for solutions to the complex social and public health problems posed by drug abuse and addiction. NIDA supports basic research on such topics as craving, motivation, and decision-making to determine how behavioral and cognitive factors underlie and can lead to drug addiction. The Institute's new Prevention Research Initiative integrates basic science with prevention research. NIDA will focus on preventing the initiation of drug abuse by better understanding basic cognitive processes, such as those involved in the decision to use a drug. Understanding behavior will not only aid in the development of prevention strategies, it will also aid in the development of new therapies for those addicted to drugs.

The National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) has broadened its behavioral science portfolio in order to understand the underlying psychological and cognitive processes that lead people to drink, and the impact of chronic alcohol abuse on cognitive, psychological and behavioral functioning. In launching its College Drinking Initiative, highlighted by its flagship report, "A Call to Action: Changing the Culture of Drinking at U.S. Colleges," NIAAA has made significant strides in addressing a critical public health problem – that of alcohol abuse among young people. Led by APS member Dr. Mark Goldman of the University of South Florida, and Reverend Edward Malloy of the University of Notre Dame, the initiative's goals are to improve campus prevention and treatment programs, and to provide college presidents, policy makers, and researchers with information on the effectiveness of current interventions.

The National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) has demonstrated enormous leadership in promoting translational research in behavioral science, aimed at bringing knowledge from the laboratory into clinical research and application. In simplest terms, this is the result Congress was looking for when it chose to double the NIH budget: the results of research being used to treat patients with complex disorders in an effective and efficient manner. The goal is to develop more effective, theory-based interventions and service-delivery models for mental disorders through increased applications of the garnered data. This initiative will develop research centers that support the transition of basic behavioral science research to patient-oriented studies regarding new interventions and delivery of services for patients with mental disorders.

We need to reiterate that none of these accomplishments would have been possible without the faith and foresight of Congress. Not only will these ideas and discoveries in behavioral science lead to a healthier nation, but to a safer world as well.



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The Pancreatic Cancer Action Network Commends Senators Harkin and Specter for their Leadership in Doubling the NIH Budget

July 17, 2002

CONTACT: Julie Fleshman, Executive Director; (310) 725-0025

El Segundo, California -- The Pancreatic Cancer Action Network (PanCAN) commends Senators Tom Harkin (D-IA) and Arlen Specter (R-PA) for their distinguished leadership in providing the National Institutes of Health (NIH) with substantial funding increases over the last several years, and specifically for maintaining their commitment to double the agency's budget between Fiscal Year 1999 (FY 99) and Fiscal Year 2003 (FY 03). Senators Harkin and Specter have proposed a funding level of \$27.4 BILLION for the NIH in FY 03 -- a level that is double the FY 99 funding level of \$13.2 billion. As a result of the doubling the NIH budget, the National Cancer Institute (NCI) increased its annual budget from \$2.5 billion in FY 98 to over \$4.7 billion in FY 03.

PanCAN, which is the first national patient-based advocacy organization to focus on pancreatic cancer, represents thousands of pancreatic cancer advocates, patients and families in their joint quest to focus national attention on the need to find a cure for pancreatic cancer. Approximately 30,300 people in the United States will be diagnosed with pancreatic cancer this year. Pancreatic cancer's 99% mortality rate is the highest of any cancer, and the average life expectancy after diagnosis with metastatic disease is just three to six months. Pancreatic cancer is the 4th leading cause of cancer death in the U.S. for men and women, and only 4% of patients survive beyond five years. Because there is no cure or early detection methods, effective treatment options are extremely limited.

“Our Federal research enterprise is the best in the world, yet pancreatic cancer patients need more research to make additional inroads. We need resources to study the precursors and causes of pancreatic cancer,” said Paula Kim, Founding CEO of PanCAN.

“We need to study the genetic mutations that may predispose people to the disease and develop effective treatments and reliable techniques for early detection of pancreatic cancer,” said Kim.

“Without additional research funding, thousands of people will continue to die from this dreadful disease without even knowing what hit them,” said Kim, whose father died from pancreatic cancer just 75 days after he was diagnosed with the disease.

“Pancreatic cancer is a horrible disease, and we need a lot of research on this monster so it can be diagnosed earlier,” said Tamisue Leeper of Council Bluffs, Iowa, who lost both of her parents to pancreatic cancer, exactly 31 days after diagnosis for both of them.

“My brothers and I only hope and pray that researchers find out more about this disease, and possibly a cure,” she said.

“I applaud Chairman Harkin and his colleagues for providing more research dollars for cancer and other diseases so that future generations will not have to face the heartache of losing so many people to pancreatic cancer,” Leeper said.

“It is important that research go forward to determine the cause of pancreatic cancer,” said Bruce Joseph of Willow Grove, Pennsylvania, who lost his mother to pancreatic cancer when she was only 59 years old.

“Right now no one knows what causes this disease or who is pre-disposed to pancreatic cancer,” Joseph said. “This information is especially important to those who may have genetic ties to the disease. NIH funding is essential for this important research to continue.”

For pancreatic cancer patients, additional funding will allow the NIH to increase the number of investigators and specialized research programs focused on pancreatic cancer. Additional research dollars will allow investigators to better understand and determine how the molecular biology of pancreatic cancer can be harnessed for therapeutic gain. Also, more funding will allow the NIH to develop better methods to contact and track pancreatic cancer patients, and increase awareness and educational programs on pancreatic cancer. All of these programs are essential to developing effective screening, treatments and a cure for pancreatic cancer.

PanCAN is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization founded in 1998 by surviving family members of individuals who had died of pancreatic cancer. Chartered in 1999 as a grassroots organization of advocacy for pancreatic cancer patients and their families, PanCAN currently has members throughout the United States and around the world.

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For Immediate Release:

AAMC APPLAUDS SENATORS HARKIN, SPECTER
Efforts to double NIH budget will ensure the progress of biomedical research

Washington, D.C., July 16, 2002 – The Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) praised the efforts of Senators Tom Harkin (D-IA) and Arlen Specter (R-PA) today for securing a \$27.2 billion FY 2003 budget for the National Institutes of Health (NIH). In their roles as chairman and ranking member, respectively, of the Senate Labor, Health and Human Services Appropriations Subcommittee, both senators have led the charge to fulfill a congressional commitment, made in 1999, to double the NIH budget by 2003.

The nation has benefited tremendously from NIH's stewardship of the medical research enterprise. This financial support will allow these benefits to continue and ensure that the United States can maximize its scientific opportunities well into the next century.

"The nation's medical schools and teaching hospitals are grateful to Senators Harkin and Specter, who have been champions for the NIH, and instrumental in achieving the federal funding so critical to its mission," said AAMC President Jordan J. Cohen, M.D.

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The Association of American Medical Colleges represents the 125 accredited U.S. medical schools; the 16 accredited Canadian medical schools; some 400 major teaching hospitals, including Veterans Administration medical centers; more than 105,000 faculty in 98 academic and scientific societies; and the nation's 66,000 medical students and 97,000 residents. Additional information about the AAMC and U.S. medical schools and teaching hospitals is available at www.aamc.org/newsroom.

NAMI *Statement*

NAMI PRAISES SENATORS HARKIN & SPECTER FOR INCREASES IN RESEARCH ON SEVERE MENTAL ILLNESSES

*Statement of Jim McNulty
President, National Alliance for the Mentally Ill*

July 17, 2002

Washington—The National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI) is extremely grateful for the leadership of Senators Tom Harkin (D-IA) and Arlen Specter (R-PA) in completing the goal of doubling the federal investment in biomedical research at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) by FY 2003. As the nation's largest organization representing individuals with severe mental illnesses and their families, NAMI deeply appreciates this major bipartisan achievement. Our 220,000 members and 1,200 affiliates extend our gratitude for a job well done.

Thanks to important research funded by National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), important advances have been achieved in treatment for people living with serious brain disorders—such as schizophrenia and bipolar disorder—over the last decade. But we still have a long way to go. Medical science has yet to produce cures for these severe mental illnesses. In addition, research on many of these illnesses has historically been underfunded relative to their overall public health burden. According to a recent study conducted by the World Health Organization, no less than four of the top ten causes of disability worldwide are severe mental illnesses. Major depression, bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, and obsessive-compulsive disorder account for an estimated 20 percent of total disability resulting from all diseases and injuries. The bipartisan effort to double medical research funding is a landmark accomplishment in helping NIH and NIMH align research priorities with public health burden.

From basic scientific and clinical research, all the way to translational and services research, NAMI believes that the future findings and accomplishments that will be made possible by the leadership of Senators Harkin and Specter will bring new understanding and new treatments for severe mental illnesses. NAMI salutes their efforts in bringing about what we hope will be a new age of discovery for severe mental illnesses, and a new age of recovery for individuals and their families living with these illnesses.

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With more than 220,000 members, NAMI is the nation's leading grassroots advocacy organization solely dedicated to improving the lives of persons with severe mental illnesses including schizophrenia, bipolar disorder (manic-depressive illness), major depression, obsessive-compulsive disorder, and severe anxiety disorders.

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NIH DOUBLING CAMPAIGN NEARS FINISH LINE FASEB Praises Senate Labor/HHS Subcommittee for Approving Final Installment

Bethesda, MD — The historic five-year goal to double funding for the National Institutes of Health by 2003 is within reach today as the Senate Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee approved \$27.3 billion for NIH in its Fiscal Year 2003 bill. This amount represents the fifth and final installment in the doubling effort.

“Chairman Tom Harkin (D-IA) and Ranking Member Arlen Specter (R-PA) have demonstrated a steadfast commitment to accelerate progress in biomedical research to improve human health. FASEB’s members are very grateful to them, and the other members of the Subcommittee, for their extraordinary leadership as we move one major step closer to completing the NIH doubling,” commented FASEB President Steven L. Teitelbaum.

“Opportunities for biomedical discoveries have never been greater. The mapping of the human genome has brought us to the threshold of a new era in medicine. With a vast, new wealth of genetic data at our disposal, we have an extraordinary opportunity to identify genes and proteins involved in human disease – and to speed the translation of this knowledge into diagnosis, treatments, and potential cures,” Teitelbaum continued.

The Subcommittee’s action today will provide essential funding to enable our nation’s best researchers to keep pace with scientific opportunities. The funding will also provide critical resources to enhance our ability to respond appropriately to bioterrorism threats. While much has been achieved, much more progress is necessary to reduce human disease and disability. FASEB looks forward to working with the Subcommittee to sustain the momentum of discovery in the years ahead.

“Once again, we want to thank Senators Harkin and Specter for their invaluable leadership. We understand the difficult choices necessary to complete funding for the NIH doubling effort and look forward to demonstrating the wisdom of this sacrifice through our research in the days ahead,” concluded Teitelbaum.

FASEB is comprised of 21 societies with more than 60,000 members, making it the largest coalition of biomedical research associations in the United States. FASEB’s mission is to enhance the ability of biomedical and life scientists to improve—through their research—the health, well-being and productivity of all people. FASEB serves the interests of these scientists in those areas related to public policy, facilitates coalition activities among Member Societies and disseminates information on biological research through scientific conferences and publications.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 17, 2002

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The Research Society on Alcoholism Praises Senate Action To Double NIH Budget

Washington, D.C. -- July 17, 2002. The Research Society on Alcoholism expresses its strong support and appreciation for the proposed \$27.2 billion NIH budget approved by the Senate Labor-HHS Appropriations Subcommittee yesterday.

The Senate Subcommittee, under the leadership of Chairman Tom Harkin (D-IA) and Ranking Republican Member Senator Arlen Specter (R-PA), has taken the final step in its efforts to complete the national campaign to double the NIH budget over a five year period. The RSA applauds both Chairman Harkin and Senator Specter for spearheading this historic achievement.

"There are many exciting opportunities in the field of alcohol research resulting from the strong investments made over the past five years in the NIH and the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA)," said RSA President Dr. Stephanie O'Malley. "Several promising scientific avenues are now under pursuit that will potentially lead to effective pharmacological interventions to treat alcohol misuse and dependence."

Alcohol abuse and alcoholism are a major cause of medical morbidity, mental retardation, accidental death and injury, homicide, suicide, lost productivity, and disruption of family. The economic costs of alcohol abuse and alcoholism on the nation are staggering, estimated at approximately \$185 billion annually.

"The impact of alcohol abuse and dependence on our society dictates the need for an aggressive national research effort. We simply cannot afford to be complacent and hope that our children "learn" by observing the negative consequences of alcohol misuse. We commend Senators Harkin and Specter and their congressional colleagues for making it possible to launch such an effort," said Dr. O'Malley.

The Research Society on Alcoholism is a professional society of over 1500 members who are committed to understanding and intervening in the negative consequences of alcohol through basic research, clinical protocols and epidemiological studies.

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**ASSOCIATION OF
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**SOCIETY FOR
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PUBLIC POLICY COUNCIL

July 17, 2002

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**PEDIATRIC RESEARCHERS APPLAUD SENATORS HARKIN, SPECTER
FOR DOUBLING NIH BUDGET**

The Public Policy Council applauds the Senate Labor, HHS and Education Appropriations Subcommittee, under the steadfast leadership and support of Chairman Tom Harkin (D-IA) and Ranking Member Arlen Specter (R-PA), for reaching the goal of doubling the funding for the National Institutes of Health in FY 2003. The Subcommittee's mark yesterday of \$27.3 billion completes the five-year commitment that began in FY 1999.

Research funded by the National Institutes of Health has had a significant impact on the well-being of children. As a result of NIH-funded research, deaths from sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS) have been reduced by 50%, the development of surfactant for infants with respiratory distress syndrome (RDS) has saved the lives of premature babies, and infants now receive a vaccine to prevent Hemophilus influenza type b (HIB) meningitis, one of the leading causes of mental retardation. Infants and children are leading healthier lives.

As pediatric researchers involved in basic, clinical and health services research aimed at improving the quality of life for all of America's children, we join with the Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research Funding to thank Senators Harkin and Specter for fulfilling our collective goal. We look forward to working with them to maintain and sustain the momentum of NIH-funded research in the years to come.

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The Public Policy Council represents the American Pediatric Society, the Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs and the Society for Pediatric Research. We comprise scientists from medical schools, children's hospitals and other research facilities and are the driving force behind advances in science that benefit children and also are the mentors for training our next generation of pediatric scientists.



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 17, 2002

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**VISION RESEARCH COMMUNITY APPLAUDS SENATE EFFORTS
TO COMPLETE NIH DOUBLING CAMPAIGN**

Washington, D.C. -- July 17, 2002. The National Alliance for Eye and Vision Research (NAEVR) commends yesterday's action by the Senate Labor-HHS Appropriations Subcommittee giving approval to a \$27.2 billion budget for the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

The National Alliance for Eye and Vision Research expresses its deep appreciation and gratitude to Chairman Tom Harkin (D-IA), Ranking Republican Member Senator Arlen Specter (R-PA), and their Subcommittee colleagues for their determination and action to complete the five-year campaign to double the NIH budget.

Tremendous advances in research leading to a better understanding of vision disorders and cost-effective diagnostics and treatments have been realized as a result of the national campaign to double the NIH budget. For example, recent advances in gene therapy and retinal chip technology, made possible by increased budgets at the National Eye Institute, NIH, show great promise of reversing blindness.

"The hope of restoring vision to someone who is blind is no longer just a dream, but very close within our reach," states Dr. Steve Ryan, NAEVR President. "Due to the strong leadership of Senators Harkin and Specter in advocating for the appropriations necessary to complete the doubling campaign over this five year period, millions of Americans afflicted with blinding eye disease now have the hope that one day they will see."

The NAEVR urges quick approval of the Senate Subcommittee's proposed \$27.2 billion NIH budget by the Senate and House of Representatives.

The National Alliance for Eye and Vision Research is an umbrella organization of forty-three organizations – representing researchers, providers, consumer advocates and industry – all dedicated to achieving the best vision and eye health for all Americans.

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AMERICAN
SOCIETY FOR
MICROBIOLOGY

MEDIA INFORMATION

For immediate release
July 17, 2002

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AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR MICROBIOLOGY APPLAUDS SENATORS HARKIN AND SPECTER FOR DOUBLING NIH BUDGET

The American Society for Microbiology (ASM) commends Senator Tom Harkin (D-Iowa), Senator Arlen Specter (R – Pa.), and members of the Senate Labor-HHS Appropriations Subcommittee for their dedication and commitment in achieving the bipartisan goal of doubling the National Institutes of Health (NIH) budget over the last five years.

“Tangible benefits to public well-being come from dedicated innovation and investment in biomedical research,” says Gail Cassell, Chair of the ASM Public and Scientific Affairs Board. “Thanks in part to the tireless efforts of Senators Harkin and Specter, the NIH budget will enhance its ability to seize scientific opportunities to advance both national health and national security.”

Biomedical research in the 21st century is no longer just about public health but also national defense. The doubling of the NIH budget offers the capability to develop effective measures to counter the effects of a potential bioterrorism attack, while at the same time increasing research efforts to combat old and new diseases that threaten to undermine health and well-being in this country and globally. There will be dual benefits for public health in the research investments to develop new therapeutics, vaccines, antimicrobials, and diagnostics which will carry over to health breakthroughs for all infectious diseases.

The ASM thanks Senators Harkin and Specter for their commitment to improving the health and defense of the nation and looks forward to continued efforts to sustain the momentum of high quality NIH-funded biomedical research to address the medical and biodefense needs of the nation and the world now and into the future.

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The American Society for Microbiology is the largest single life science society, composed of over 40,000 scientists and health professionals. Its mission is to promote research and research training in the microbiological sciences and to assist communication among scientists, policy makers, and the public to improve health, the environment and economic well-being.

AAU

NEWS

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For Release:
date July 17, 2002

Statement of Nils Hasselmo,
President, Association of American Universities,
following the subcommittee markup
of the FY2003 Senate Labor/HHS/Education appropriations bill
July 17, 2002

The Association of American Universities is pleased to salute Chairman Harkin and Ranking Member Specter for having marked up a bill yesterday that would complete the process of doubling the NIH budget over five years. Their dedication to this awesome task, through which NIH funding would grow from \$13.6 billion in FY1998 to the \$27.2 billion the subcommittee included yesterday in the FY2003 Labor/HHS/Education Appropriations Act, shows that, counter to the prevailing wisdom, you actually CAN get something done in Washington.

By doubling its funding, the Congress has enabled NIH to support a much greater quantity of promising research than it was ever able to support before -- nearly 10,000 more research grants every year can be funded, allowing scientists to pursue that many more ideas that could lead to vaccines, cures, diagnostics, and therapies.

Chairman Harkin and Ranking Member Specter, along with their other colleagues in the Senate and the Appropriations Committee members in the House, deserve the nation's hearty thanks for advancing the cause of biomedical and behavioral research so dramatically. AAU is pleased to join with other members of the biomedical research community, including the Ad Hoc Group for Biomedical Research, in celebrating the achievement that Senators Harkin and Specter have helped us to achieve, and looks forward to working to sustain in future years the momentum in biomedical research investments achieved by the Congress.

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AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR REPRODUCTIVE MEDICINE

Formerly The American Fertility Society

ASRM Statement on Completion of the Doubling of the NIH Budget

Attributable to William Keye, Jr., MD
President, American Society for Reproductive Medicine

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We are delighted that our Senators and Representatives have completed their goal of doubling the budget of the National Institutes of Health. Their foresight and dedication have contributed to creating a research environment in which more scientifically promising studies will receive funding and support. In particular we want to thank Senators Harkin and Specter who have shown all of us what strong bipartisan leadership can do.

When they began the budget-doubling effort five years ago, legislators realized that one of the great strengths of our nation is its concentration of scientific and technical expertise and its commitment to discovering new knowledge and developing applications for that knowledge. We hope that NIH funding levels will continue to be increased, assuring that the United States retains its preeminence in biomedical research.

FOR RELEASE:
July 17, 2002

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**Research!America Applauds Senate Action
to Complete Doubling of National Institutes of Health**

(Alexandria, VA) Research!America today applauded the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services and Education (LHHS) for proposing a \$27.3 billion budget for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in fiscal year 2003. If agreed upon by Congress and the White House, appropriation of the \$27.3 billion mark would conclude a five-year campaign to double the budget of the NIH.

"The exceptionally strong commitment to research shown by the Senate Subcommittee and its leadership is commendable," said Research!America Chair Hon. Paul G. Rogers. "It is with strong increases like these that research will continue to bring new treatments, cures and hope to the nation. Because without research, there is no hope."

"The Senate LHHS leadership, Senators Tom Harkin and Arlen Specter, are steadfast champions for research. Their commitment to doubling the budget of the NIH and to sustaining strong investments in science will bring countless new discoveries and better health to our nation," said Hon. John Edward Porter, Research!America board member and former chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies.

"Completing the doubling of the NIH will allow us to continue to protect our nation through research and is in step with public opinion," said Research!America President Mary Woolley.

Since introducing the doubling concept in its 1992 polls, Research!America has been at the forefront of the effort to double federal medical and health research funding by fiscal year 2003. Polls commissioned by Research!America show seventy percent of Americans support doubling medical and health research over five years.

Research!America is a non-profit education and advocacy alliance dedicated to making medical and health research, including research to prevent disease, disability and injury and to promote health, a much higher national priority. Its more than 450 members include academia, industry, independent research laboratories, professional and scientific societies, voluntary health organizations and philanthropies—all stakeholders in medical and health research. Through the strength of its diverse and far-reaching membership, Research!America provides a unified link between the voice of citizens who strongly support research and the influence of local, state and national opinion leaders and decision makers.

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NASULGC

News Release

News Release

News Release

For Release: Immediately

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NASULGC Applauds Senate on Approval of NIH Funding Increase

Washington, D.C., July 17, 2002— The National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges (NASULGC) commends the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education for its bipartisan effort to double the funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) over the last five years. The subcommittee announced today that it has included the final installment of this goal by approving \$3.7 billion for the FY 2003 budget, bringing the total NIH funding to \$27.2 billion.

"We are extremely pleased with the committee's markup," states NASULGC President C. Peter Magrath. " We particularly commend the leadership and support of Chairman Tom Harkin and Ranking Member Arlen Specter in maintaining their commitment to this investment in lifesaving research over the past five years. Countless people will be the beneficiaries of this research for decades to come."

The full Appropriations Committee is expected to approve the markup this week.

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NATIONAL HEALTH COUNCIL

PRESS RELEASE

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NATIONAL HEALTH COUNCIL SUPPORTS COMPLETION OF DOUBLING OF NIH BUDGET

WASHINGTON, JULY 17, 2002— The National Health Council applauds the Senate Labor-HHS Appropriations Subcommittee, and in particular Chairman Tom Harkin (D-Iowa) and Ranking Member Arlen Specter (R-Pa.) for their commitment to the completion of doubling of the National Institutes of Health's (NIH) budget. The National Health Council has been very active on this issue including hosting a congressional briefing last month that touched on the importance of increased funding for NIH.

Investments in research have yielded dramatic improvements in the detection and treatment of cancer, heart disease, AIDS and arthritis and have increased the life expectancy for patients, as well as their quality of life. Advances are also being made for the treatment of osteoporosis, mental illness, many forms of cancer, heart disease, stroke and infectious diseases. These advances have been made possible by past and present commitments of federal funding.

"However, there are many health challenges that still confront us," Myrl Weinberg, president, National Health Council remarked. "Future commitments of adequate funding can maintain these advances and lead to more promising breakthroughs in medical research which is why we strongly support the doubling effort for the National Institutes of Health."

About the National Health Council

The National Health Council is a private, nonprofit umbrella organization of 117 national health-related organizations working to bring quality health care to all people. Its core membership includes more than 50 of the nation's leading voluntary health agencies representing about 100 million people with chronic diseases and/or disabilities. Other Council members include professional and membership associations, nonprofit organizations with an interest in health, and major pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies. The Council serves as a place for diverse health-related groups to build consensus with a focus on patients and their needs.

**ASCO APPLAUDS CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT
FOR NIH DOUBLING EFFORT**

JULY 17, 2002

The American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) applauds the commitment of Congress to doubling the budget of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) by FY 2003. ASCO represents more than 18,000 physicians and other health care providers involved in cancer treatment and research worldwide. Among our highest policy priorities is adequate federal funding for biomedical research generally and for research specifically into the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of cancer.

The sustained bipartisan support for biomedical research represents a model of good government dedicated to advancing human health. Congressional commitment has been essential to ensuring predictability and stability in NIH funding and allowing scientists to pursue exciting new research endeavors. We believe the biomedical research effort of this country is so strong largely because of the unwavering support of Congress.

ASCO particularly appreciates the tremendous support of Senators Tom Harkin (D-IA) and Arlen Specter (R-PA) in fulfilling this doubling effort. Their continued leadership in support of biomedical research and the NIH has led to unprecedented advances in prevention, diagnosis and treatment of many life-threatening diseases, such as cancer. On behalf of oncologists and their patients, we urge Congress to continue its strong support of NIH. We also recommend that special attention be paid to the clinical research enterprise to ensure that basic research findings are promptly translated into patient care.

The American Physiological Society

Integrating the Life Sciences from Molecule to Organism
9650 Rockville Pike
Bethesda, MD 20814

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The American Physiological Society Applauds Senators Harkin and Specter For NIH Budget Doubling Effort

(July 16, 2002) BETHESDA, Md. – The American Physiological Society (APS) commends Senate Labor HHS Chairman Tom Harkin (D-IA) and Ranking Member Arlen Specter (R-PA) on their efforts to secure funding to complete the five-year doubling of National Institutes of Health (NIH) budget. These funds are vital to physiological research and will allow physiologists to continue their examination of the entire spectrum of disease, from bench research to treatments and clinical management.

“Senators Harkin and Specter have been two of the Senate’s fiercest advocates for biomedical research,” stated APS Executive Director Dr. Martin Frank. “With this achievement, they have helped to open the door to progress which will pay enormous health dividends for this and many generations to come.”

For example, 41percent of all deaths in the United States are caused by cardiovascular disease. NIH funding has led to the development of the first line of prevention and treatment regimens to combat this number one killer of Americans. These developments included using angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitors (ACE inhibitors) to control blood pressure and statins to control cholesterol in the blood.

Physiologists study dynamic processes in the organs and systems of the body at every level from molecular through to patient treatments. NIH funding supports both basic research and the essential processes of translating knowledge gained from this research from the laboratory to the patient’s bedside. Additionally, as our understanding of genetics and other basic sciences continues to expand, scientists will be able to delve more deeply into the causes of disease and potential treatments.

Today we are in an era of amazing scientific breakthroughs. NIH funding is integral to research that will improve the quality of life.

The American Physiological Society is an academic association of scientists involved in the study of how the organs and systems of the body function. The APS was founded in 1887 and now has nearly 11,000 members engaged in research and teaching at colleges, universities and medical schools, government agencies, and in industry.

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July 16, 2002

The Honorable Tom Harkin
Chairman

Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services and Education
184 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Arlen Specter
Ranking Member

Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services and Education
190 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Harkin and Specter:

On behalf of the Association of Independent Research Institutes (AIRI), I am writing to thank you for your leadership for, and commitment to, strong funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH), to achieve the goal of doubling the NIH budget.

AIRI is a nationwide association of 89 independent, not-for-profit research institutes. AIRI members are a small but able force of research institutions funded by NIH on the basis of merit. Increases in the NIH budget have allowed many AIRI members to successfully enhance efforts in ongoing areas of research as well as address the nation's most current health priorities.

AIRI sincerely thanks you for your continued support of our nation's biomedical research program and looks forward to working with you. If AIRI may provide you with any information throughout the course of our joint endeavor, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Jane Sheehan
President



News RELEASE

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2005

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July 17, 2002

Release No. 02-24

APA Lauds Senators Harkin, Specter for Doubling NIH Budget

**Statement by Paul S. Appelbaum, M.D.
President, American Psychiatric Association**

The American Psychiatric Association (APA) extends gratitude and praise to the Senate Labor-HHS Appropriations Subcommittee, particularly Chairman Tom Harkin (D-IA) and Ranking Member Arlen Specter (R-PA), for their commitment to increased federal funding of biomedical and behavioral research at the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

The Subcommittee's FY 2003 Labor-HHS Appropriations Bill markup provides the fifth consecutive double-digit increase in NIH funding, fulfilling the commitment to achieve the five-year doubling trajectory for NIH.

All Americans lives are directly touched by mental illness research. Federal funding of neuroscience, behavioral science, and genetics research has led to an explosion of knowledge and promise to advance our understanding of mental illness, unlocking new strategies for disease prevention, diagnosis, treatment and cures, yet we still face a tremendous array of health challenges. Additional resources provided by the Subcommittee will now better enable us to translate this basic knowledge into clinical research that will lead to better treatments for the 44.3 million people who suffer from diagnosable mental disorders.

Senators Harkin and Specter have tirelessly demonstrated their understanding, leadership and effectiveness in supporting scientific funding issues and their contributions to mental health research funding are invaluable. The APA looks forward to continuing to work with the Subcommittee, the President and Congress to sustain the momentum of NIH-funded research so we can continue to improve upon the health and wellness of Americans with mental disorders.

The American Psychiatric Association is a national medical specialty society, founded in 1844, whose 38,000 physician members specialize in the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of mental illnesses including substance use disorders. For more information, visit the APA Web site at www.psych.org.

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AMERICAN
SOCIETY FOR
MICROBIOLOGY

MEDIA INFORMATION

For immediate release
July 17, 2002

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AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR MICROBIOLOGY APPLAUDS SENATORS HARKIN AND SPECTER FOR DOUBLING NIH BUDGET

The American Society for Microbiology (ASM) commends Senator Tom Harkin (D-Iowa), Senator Arlen Specter (R – Pa.), and members of the Senate Labor-HHS Appropriations Subcommittee for their dedication and commitment in achieving the bipartisan goal of doubling the National Institutes of Health (NIH) budget over the last five years.

“Tangible benefits to public well-being come from dedicated innovation and investment in biomedical research,” says Gail Cassell, Chair of the ASM Public and Scientific Affairs Board. “Thanks in part to the tireless efforts of Senators Harkin and Specter, the NIH budget will enhance its ability to seize scientific opportunities to advance both national health and national security.”

Biomedical research in the 21st century is no longer just about public health but also national defense. The doubling of the NIH budget offers the capability to develop effective measures to counter the effects of a potential bioterrorism attack, while at the same time increasing research efforts to combat old and new diseases that threaten to undermine health and well-being in this country and globally. There will be dual benefits for public health in the research investments to develop new therapeutics, vaccines, antimicrobials, and diagnostics which will carry over to health breakthroughs for all infectious diseases.

The ASM thanks Senators Harkin and Specter for their commitment to improving the health and defense of the nation and looks forward to continued efforts to sustain the momentum of high quality NIH-funded biomedical research to address the medical and biodefense needs of the nation and the world now and into the future.

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The American Society for Microbiology is the largest single life science society, composed of over 40,000 scientists and health professionals. Its mission is to promote research and research training in the microbiological sciences and to assist communication among scientists, policy makers, and the public to improve health, the environment and economic well-being.