



*Integrating
the Life Sciences
from Molecule to
Organism*

The American Physiological Society

9650 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, Maryland 20814-3991 (USA)

November 18, 2008

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The Honorable Robert C. Byrd
Chairman, Appropriations Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am writing on behalf of the American Physiological Society (APS) to express our support for the inclusion of \$1 billion of additional funds for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in the proposed economic recovery package.

With less than one out of every five grant applications being funded by the NIH, many good ideas are waiting to be explored and many will never be explored. The additional \$1 billion would enable the NIH to award more than 2000 new research grants that would otherwise go unfunded. These grants could be funded in a matter of weeks and the increased flow of dollars to research labs across the country would create and sustain good jobs for skilled scientific professionals, support staff and many others who contribute to the research enterprise. And most importantly, investment in biomedical research at the NIH provides hope for people around the world in the form of advances toward better health, ultimately reducing health care costs.

For the last several years, the NIH budget growth has failed to keep up with the rate of inflation. After peaking in fiscal year (FY) 2004, the number of research project grants distributed by the NIH has dropped by nearly a thousand in FY 2009. In contrast, while NIH budget growth has been slow, the opportunities for scientific progress are expanding faster than ever.

I thank you for your sustained support for the NIH.

Sincerely,

Irving H. Zucker
President
The American Physiological Society