

January 29, 2024

The Hon. Kay Granger
Chair
House Appropriations Committee
U.S. House
Washington, DC 20515

The Hon. Patty Murray
Chair
Senate Appropriations Committee
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Hon. Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
U.S. House
Washington, DC 20515

The Hon. Susan Collins
Vice Chair
Senate Appropriations Committee
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chair Granger, Chair Murray, Ranking Member DeLauro, and Vice Chair Collins,

As the House and Senate negotiate final Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24) funding levels, the undersigned organizations write to urge you to ensure that the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) receives the boosted funding needed to meet its critical, multi-faceted mission.

The scope of NIAID's work is broad: NIAID funding supports 1,300 researchers across the United States who are working to overcome threats such as Valley fever, sepsis, antimicrobial resistance, autoimmune disease, and radiation exposure, as well as end epidemics, including HIV and viral hepatitis, among many other pressing health concerns. Infections frequently complicate other types of medical care, including organ transplantation, cancer treatment, cesarean sections, hip and knee replacements, and other surgeries, making infectious disease research essential to the very foundation of health care. The research NIAID supports has yielded remarkable results. Some notable examples include:

- NIAID-funded research led to the development of antiretroviral agents that are highly effective at suppressing HIV to undetectable levels in the body keeping people with HIV healthy and stopping HIV transmission. These drugs can also be used to prevent HIV infection in those at elevated risk of acquiring HIV. Further, Protease inhibitors used in HIV treatment contributed to the development of direct-acting antivirals that cure hepatitis C.
- NIAID-supported basic and clinical research contributed significantly to developing the first-ever Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) vaccine for adults aged 60+. This vaccine is projected to prevent 160,000 hospitalizations and 10,000 deaths annually and save up to \$4.0 billion in healthcare costs.
- NIAID-funded research played an important role in the development of the revolutionary asthma drug mepolizumab, which has significantly improved treatment for the twenty million adults and 5 million children with asthma, reducing childhood asthma attacks by 27%.

- NIAID-funded researchers identified a gut bacteria linked to rheumatoid arthritis, opening new treatment pathways for 1.3 million affected adults.
- NIAID played an important role in a public-private partnership that developed the pioneering drug, teplizumab. This drug is capable of delaying diabetes onset by two years after a single treatment, benefiting 200,000 U.S. children.
- NIAID is supporting clinical research on a vaccine to prevent Dengue fever. The incidence of Dengue, which can cause debilitating symptoms and in extreme cases, death, is exploding in the Americas and mosquitoes carrying the virus are spreading more widely in the U.S.
- NIAID-funded research led to the development of new antibiotics to treat multi-drug resistant tuberculosis and supported clinical trials to prove the efficacy of antibiotic regimens that can cure tuberculosis in as little as 4 months.

In addition to specific research achievements, every year NIAID funding is critical to training the next generation of researchers needed to confront emerging health threats. This is a small subset of NIAID's contributions to the health and well-being of Americans and people across the globe. We need the progress NIAID seeds to secure our nation against infectious threats and reduce the deadly toll of infectious and chronic diseases.

We appreciate your continuing efforts, and those of your respective staff members, to complete the FY24 appropriations process. Thank you for considering our request that you assure robust funding for NIAID, and please call on our organizations if additional information about the significance of NIAID-funded research would prove useful.

AdvaMedDx
 AIDS Action Baltimore
 AIDS Foundation Chicago
 Alliance for Aging Research
 American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology
 American Academy of HIV Medicine
 American Diabetes Association
 American Institute of Biological Sciences
 American Society for Microbiology
 American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene
 American Thoracic Society
 APLA Health
 AVAC
 Bravo Victor US
 Camenzind Solutions LLC
 Chalk Talk Science
 Coalition for the Life Sciences
 Cystic Fibrosis Foundation
 Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation

FAPP Research Working Group
Georgia AIDS Coalition
HealthHIV
HIV + Hepatitis Policy Institute
HIV Medicine Association
HIV Medicine Association
Infectious Disease Society of America
International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI)
Johns Hopkins University
La Jolla Institute for Immunology
Latino Commission on AIDS
Lupus Research Alliance
National Alliance of State & Territorial AIDS Directors (NASTAD)
National Alliance for Eye and Vision Research
National Coalition for LGBTQ Health
National Minority AIDS Council
Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society
Peggy Lillis Foundation
PrEP4ALL
TB Alliance
The Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO)
Treatment Action Group (TAG)
University of Alabama, Birmingham Heersink School of Medicine
University of Washington School of Medicine

Individual Signatories:

Iva Ruth, IPPF
Raghavan Chinnadurai, Mercer University
Brian Childs, Mercer University School of Medicine
Paul J Utz, MD, Associate Dean for Medical Student Research, Stanford University School of Medicine
Daniel Bausch, Tulane University
Sandra Weller, University of Connecticut school of medicine
Angela Sy, University of Hawaii

CC:

The Honorable Robert Aderholt
The Honorable Tammy Baldwin
The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito

