

SUPPORT \$2 BILLION INCREASE TO STRENGTHEN BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH AT THE NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

Lupus Advocacy Day 2017

The Lupus Research Alliance has invested in pioneering, innovative research searching for the cause and cure of lupus by raising funds in the private sector. These investments have afforded investigators the opportunity to initiate studies, make breakthroughs and obtain highly competitive National Institutes of Health (NIH) funding to continue their research.

Tomorrow's advances in lupus and other autoimmune diseases **depend on today's investments in NIH** research.

- The nature of the disease, its destructive treatments and the wide range of the body's organs affected make it a particularly **complex disease for conducting clinical trials**.
- **Lupus patients only recently celebrated the first FDA approval of a new drug** to treat their disease, and many more are needed.
- Other, more **widely used treatments** today still involve use of steroids and chemotherapy drugs - all of **which are toxic and ravage the body and its organs**.

Public investment in **biomedical research is overwhelmingly supported** by Americans.

- **78%** of Americans indicated that support for medical discoveries should be a **priority for Congress**.¹

Investments in NIH are also **good for America**.

- In 2015, NIH extramural funding generated an estimated **\$60 billion in economic output** nationwide.²
- NIH-funded basic research fuels the entry of **new drugs into the market** and provides a **positive return to public investment of 43%**, by some estimates.^{3,4}

NIH funding for lupus has been decreasing

Problem: We appreciate the additional \$2 billion in funding that was provided to NIH for FY2016. However, **we have a great deal more work to do** to restore the harmful effects of stagnant biomedical research funding. In particular, lupus specific funding at NIH has dropped 28% in the past seven years.⁵ Predictable increases in the country's national investment in lupus research are needed now more than ever. The seed funding that our organizations provide are not useful if today's scientists are not able to earn the opportunities that only NIH can provide.

At least a \$2 billion increase in funding above FY 2017 is needed

Solution: Vigorous support of NIH research promises to save lives and reduce the burden of disease in lupus and many other diseases, while also providing a powerful effect on our local and national economies.

To continue our national commitment to research and to fighting lupus and other diseases, the Lupus Research Alliance calls on Congress to **fund NIH at a level of not less than \$2.0 billion above the final level for FY 2017** plus a release of the **funds included in the 21st Century Cures Act as a supplement to the NIH budget**.

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¹ <http://www.aplu.org/members/councils/governmental-affairs/CGA-library/nih-fact-sheet-january-2017/file>

² "NIH's Role In Sustaining The U.S. Economy: 2016 Update Authored by Dr. Everett Ehrlich" Dr. Everett Ehrlich, United for Medical Research, 2016. <http://www.unitedformedicalresearch.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/NIH-Role-in-the-Economy-FY15-FINAL-5.23.16.pdf>

³ Andrew A. Toole. (2007) "Does Public Scientific Research Complement Private Investment in Research and Development in the Pharmaceutical Industry?" *Journal of Law and Economics*, vol. 50 http://sciencepolicy.colorado.edu/students/en-vs_5100/Toole2007.pdf

⁴ Andrew A. Toole. (2012). The impact of public basic research on industrial innovation: Evidence from the pharmaceutical industry. *Research Policy* (link is external), 41, pp. 1-12 <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S004873331100117X>

⁵ Statistic calculated using data from NIH RePORTer. National Institutes of Health. Accessed March 1, 2016.



Born from the merger of three organizations with a common belief in the potential for science to overcome lupus, the Lupus Research Alliance is at the forefront of driving innovative research that can make a difference for people living with the prototypical autoimmune disease. With that shared conviction, the Board of Directors promises to cover all administrative and operating costs of the organization, ensuring that 100% of all donations go directly to funding research programs in order to realize our vision of a world free of lupus.