



National Institute of
Neurological Disorders
and Stroke



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:
Legislative Highlights from the 116th Congress
Committee Leadership in the 117th Congress
February 2021

NINDS OFFICE OF SCIENCE POLICY & PLANNING

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Appropriations Update

	FY 2020 Appropriations	FY 2021 President's Budget	FY 2021 House Appropriations	FY 2021 Senate Appropriations	FY 2021 Appropriations
NIH	\$41.7 billion, including \$492 million from the 21 st Century Cures NIH Innovation Account (incl. \$140 million for the BRAIN Initiative) and \$500 million for research related to pain and opioids	\$38.7 billion, including \$404 million from the 21 st Century Cures NIH Innovation Account (incl. \$100 million for the BRAIN Initiative) and \$533 million for the HEAL Initiative	\$47 billion, including \$404 million from the 21 st Century Cures NIH Innovation Account (incl. \$100 million for the BRAIN Initiative), \$537 million for the HEAL initiative and research related to opioids, and \$5 billion in COVID-19 emergency funding to offset costs of lost research productivity	\$43.7 billion, including \$404 million from 21 st Century Cures NIH Innovation Account (incl. \$100 million for the BRAIN Initiative), and \$500 million for the HEAL initiative and research related to pain, opioids, and stimulants	\$42.9 billion, including \$404 million from 21 st Century Cures NIH Innovation Account (incl. \$100 million for the BRAIN Initiative) and \$540 million for the HEAL initiative and research related to opioids and stimulants
NINDS	\$2.445 billion, including \$70 million for the BRAIN Initiative and \$250 million for research related to pain and opioids	\$2.245 billion, including \$50 million for the BRAIN Initiative and \$250 million for research related to pain and opioids	\$2.622 billion, including \$50 million for the BRAIN Initiative, \$268 million for research related to pain and opioids, and \$157 million in COVID-19 emergency funding from NIH OD to offset costs from lost productivity	\$2.526 billion, including \$50 million CURES funding for the BRAIN Initiative and \$250 million for research related to pain, opioids, and stimulants	\$2.513 billion, including \$50 million CURES funding for the BRAIN Initiative and \$270 million for research related to pain, opioids, and stimulants

FY 2020

FY 2020 Appropriations. On December 16, 2019, the House and Senate Appropriations Committees released the FY2020 Further Consolidated Appropriations Act that includes spending bills for Labor, Health and Human Services and Related Agencies which include NIH ([H.R. 1865](#)). The President signed the bill (now Public Law No: 116-94) on December 20, 2019, ending the second Continuing Resolution since the beginning of FY 2020. The agreement provides \$41.7 billion for NIH, including \$492 million from the 21st Century Cures Act, and \$2.44 billion for NINDS. NIH receives an increase of \$2.6 billion (6.7% percent) above FY 2019 enacted level, which provides no less than 3.3% funding increase above FY 2019 enacted level for every Institute and Center at NIH. Also included in the agreement are a total of \$2.8 billion for AD/ABRD research, \$500 million for the BRAIN Initiative, \$500 million for opioid/pain research, \$50 million for the Childhood Cancer Data Initiative, and \$12.5 million for

firearm research, including by tracking gun-related deaths and injuries, as well as identifying correlations like the relationship between victim and shooter.

FY2021

FY 2021 Consolidated Appropriations. On December 21, 2020, the House and Senate Appropriations Committees released the [FY2021 Further Consolidated Appropriations Act](#) that includes spending bills for Labor, Health and Human Services and Related Agencies, which include NIH, and COVID-19 Supplemental Funding ([H.R. 133](#)). The President signed the bill (now Public Law No: 116-260) on December 27, 2020. The agreement provides \$42.9 billion for NIH, including \$404 million from the 21st Century Cures Act, and \$2.51 billion for NINDS. NIH receives an increase of \$1.25 billion (3% percent) above FY 2020 enacted level, which provides no less than 1.5% funding increase above FY 2020 enacted level for every Institute and Center at NIH. Also included in the agreement are a total of \$3.12 billion for AD/ADRD research, \$560 million for the BRAIN Initiative, and \$540 million for the HEAL Initiative, including opioid/pain/stimulant research.

As part of the Coronavirus Supplemental package combined with the Appropriations package, it also provides \$1.25 billion of COVID-19 supplemental funding to the NIH Office of the Director to remain available until September 2024, to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus, domestically or internationally. This amount includes \$1.15 billion for research and clinical trials related to long-term studies of COVID-19 and no less than \$100 million for the RADx Initiative.

FY 2020 COVID-19 Supplemental Appropriations

Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2020. On March 4, 2020, the House passed [H.R. 6074](#), the Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2020. On March 5, 2020, the Senate passed H.R. 6074 by a vote of 96-1, and the President signed this bill into law on March 6, 2020. The bill provided NIH with funds as below:

- \$836 million to National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) to prevent, prepare, and respond to coronavirus,
 - with at least \$10 million to be transferred to National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) for worker-based training to prevent and reduce exposure of hospital employees, emergency first responders, and other frontline workers who are at risk of exposure to coronavirus through their work duties.

Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. On March 25, 2020, the Senate passed [H.R. 748](#), the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, by a vote of 96-0. The House passed the bill on March 27, 2020, and the President signed it into law on the same day. The law provides \$2 trillion in funding to address the health and economic effects of COVID-19 in the U.S., including additional funds to NIH. The NIH funds are

distributed to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus, domestically and internationally as follows:

- \$103 million for National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI);
- \$706 million for NIAID;
- \$60 million for National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering (NIBIB);
- \$10 million for National Library of Medicine (NLM);
- \$36 million for National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS) and;
- \$30 million for the Office of the Director (OD).

Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act. On April 21, 2020 the Senate passed [H.R. 266](#), the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act by a voice vote, and on April 23, the House passed it by a vote of 388-5. The President signed H.R. 266 into law on April 24, 2020. The law provides \$383.4 billion in funding to recapitalize programs and address the health and economic effects of COVID-19. The law includes an additional \$1.8 billion for NIH to develop, improve and implement testing and associated technologies. Of the funds provided for NIH:

- \$306 million is allocated to National Cancer Institute (NCI) for serological testing;
- \$500 million is allocated to NIBIB to accelerate research and point of care;
- \$1 billion is allocated to the Office of the Director develop, validate, improve, and implement testing and associated technologies; to accelerate research, development, and implementation of point of care and other rapid testing; and for partnerships with governmental and non-governmental entities to research, develop, and implement the activities referred to above. The OD funds may be transferred to the accounts of the Institutes and Centers of the NIH for coronavirus-related purposes.

Legislative highlights from the 116th Congress

The 116th Congress introduced many pieces of NIH- and NINDS-relevant legislation focused on topics that included [fetal tissue research](#), foreign influence on research ([S. 2133](#)/[H.R.3038](#)), scientific integrity ([H.R. 1709](#)/[S. 775](#)), marijuana research ([H.R. 127](#), [H.R. 4322](#)/[S. 2400](#)), pain and opioids research ([S. 418](#)), as well as disease-specific legislation on ALS ([H.R. 5480](#), [H.R. 7071](#), [H.R. 8662](#)/[S. 4867](#)), autism ([H.R. 1058](#)/[S. 427](#)), Lyme disease and other tick-borne disease ([H.R. 220](#)), ME/CFS ([H.R. 7057](#)), Tourette syndrome ([H.R. 1131](#)), and unruptured intracranial aneurysms ([H.R. 594](#)). We anticipate some of these bills will be re-introduced into the new 117th Congress. While these bills did not become public law under the 116th Congress, the introduction of these bills demonstrates continued congressional support for and interest in NIH and NINDS and their related activities.

Legislation of Interest to NINDS/NIH Introduced in the 117th Congress

The 117th Congress convened on January 3, 2021. Currently, no legislation of interest to NINDS or NIH has been introduced into the 117th Congress.

Committee Leadership of Interest to NIH in the 117th Congress

(new = new to position)

Authorizers

House Committee on Energy and Commerce

- Chairman: **Frank Pallone Jr. (NJ)**
- Ranking member: **Cathy McMorris Rodgers (WA)** *new*

Appropriators

House Appropriations Committee

- Chairwoman: **Rosa DeLauro (CT)** *new*
- Ranking member: **Kay Granger (TX)**

Note: As of January 27, 2021, the House Authorizing and Appropriations Subcommittee leadership, as well as Senate Committee leadership of interest has not been determined.