

## RESCUING BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH

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### U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE TAKES A STRONG STEP TOWARDS STEADY BUDGET INCREASES FOR NIH

**WASHINGTON, DC** – Rescuing Biomedical Research applauds the U.S. Senate Appropriations committee for approving a \$2 billion increase in appropriations for the National Institutes of Health for fiscal 2017. Following the \$2 billion increase for the NIH in FY16, this appropriation, if passed by the full Senate and House of Representatives, would send a strong signal that the Congress is prepared to develop a pattern of steady, significant increases for federally supported biomedical research. Such increases would help the NIH and the biomedical research community recover from the damaging erosion of over 20 percent of the agency’s spending power since 2003, when the five-year doubling of the NIH budget was completed.

“Sustainable and predictable funding increases are critical for maximizing the potential of the American biomedical research enterprise,” said Shirley Tilghman, RBR co-founder and president emerita of Princeton University. “The NIH is, by far, the largest funder of basic biomedical research, and we are excited to see Congress making a sustainable pattern of increases for this agency a priority.”

Many organizations with interests in reforming of the research enterprise, from RBR to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the National Academies and scientific societies, have called on the federal government to implement a funding plan that would bring predictability and sustainability to biomedical research. Championing these recommendations at a recent Research!America event, the chairs of the Senate and House subcommittees that determine NIH funding, Sen. Roy Blunt, R-Mo., and Rep. Tom Cole, R-Okla., said they supported such long-term, sustainable and predictable increases in NIH funding.

“We strongly urge the House to follow the Senate’s lead on NIH funding,” said RBR director Chris Pickett. “NIH funding will support more than just ground-breaking research. It will also create jobs for skilled researchers, train the next generation of scientists, spur economic investment from the private sector and ensure the U.S. remains the unquestioned global leader in biomedical research.”

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Rescuing Biomedical Research, a new organization led by biomedical scientists, is committed to catalyzing policy changes that address the systemic flaws in the biomedical research enterprise. Founded in 2014, RBR is a leader in discussions and activities to bring effective, creative and valuable changes to the policies and culture of the biomedical research enterprise. RBR statements indicate the positions of a majority of its individual members but not the positions of their employers. Find out more at <http://rescuingbiomedicalresearch.org/>