



*Integrating
the Life Sciences
from Molecule to
Organism*

The American Physiological Society

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

October 29, 2008

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The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Madame Speaker:

I am writing on behalf of the American Physiological Society (APS) to urge you to consider including an additional \$1.9 billion for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in the economic stimulus and recovery package under development. \$1.9 billion represents a 6.7% increase over the current NIH funding level, and growth at this rate would help the agency restore purchasing power lost to inflation over a period of the next three years.

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.

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 \$1.9 billion would enable the NIH to award more than 5000 new research grants that would otherwise go unfunded. 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.

I thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Irving H. Zucker
President
The American Physiological Society