

FY 2017 & FY 2018 FUNDING FOR MUSCULOSKELETAL RESEARCH

The orthopaedic community, comprised of patients, physicians, and researchers, offers Congress its sincere appreciation for past investments in the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The Orthopaedic community requests that Congress appropriate \$34.1 billion for NIH for FY 2017. For FY 2018, the orthopaedic community asks that Congress support an increase of at least \$2 billion above FY 2017 levels, in addition to the funds that were included in the 21st Century Cures Act.

Significance of Musculoskeletal Conditions to the Health of the Nation:

More than one in four Americans suffer from bone or joint health problems, making it the leading cause of physical disability in the United States. In 2014, this resulted in 440 million missed work days and 25 percent of all new disability claims. Over the next 10-20 years the aging population will increase significantly, increasing the volume of musculoskeletal conditions and cost of healthcare related services.

The Need for Increased NIH Funding:

Despite the societal benefits of appropriate musculoskeletal care, funding for orthopaedic research has slowed over the past decade. If Americans are to be freed from the personal, societal, and financial burdens of musculoskeletal conditions, improved treatments and eventual cures must be found. The development of these treatments will require increased investments in both basic science and clinical research. Previous increases in NIH funding levels yielded vast advances in biomedical research, which in turn resulted in great economic benefits and improvements in health in the United States.

In Summary:

The orthopaedic community is requesting that Congress continue to build on past investments in biomedical research by finalizing \$34.1 billion for FY 2017 for the National Institutes of Health. In FY 2018, the orthopaedic community urges Congress to fund the NIH at an increase of at least \$2 billion with respect to FY 2017 levels, in addition to the funds that were included in 21st Century Cures. This increase in funding will help researchers at the NIH develop new medical treatments for musculoskeletal conditions. The proliferation of new treatments, technologies, and therapies will improve patient health and quality of life, while reducing their direct and indirect costs to the economy.