

FY 2017 FUNDING OF 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 continue to build on this investment by appropriating \$34.5 billion to the NIH in Fiscal Year 2017.

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, escalating the number 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.

The President's Budget:

The President's Fiscal Year 2017 NIH budget requests \$33.126 billion in funding for NIH. This proposed \$825 million budget increase for NIH would represent a small increase over the current funding level. Instead, the orthopaedic community recommends that Congress appropriate at least \$34.5 billion through the Labor-HHS-Education Spending bill for FY 2017. This number, \$34.5 billion, has been agreed upon by the Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research, and represents five percent real growth above the projected rate of biomedical inflation, and will help ensure that NIH-funded research can continue to improve our nation's health.

In Summary:

The orthopaedic community is requesting that Congress continue to build on past investments in biomedical research by appropriating \$34.5 billion to the National Institutes of Health in FY 2017. 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.