



## **Chairman Tom Cole**

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*Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services,  
Education, and Related Agencies  
House Committee on Appropriations*

### **FY 2017 Budget Hearing of the National Institutes of Health**

**March 16, 2016**

#### **Opening Statement As Prepared**

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Good morning. It is my pleasure to welcome you to the Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services and Education to discuss the fiscal year 2017 National Institutes of Health (NIH) budget request. We are looking forward to hearing the testimony of Dr. Collins.

I would like to publicly thank Dr. Collins and the staff at NIH for hosting me and our other subcommittee members for a briefing and tour at the NIH campus a few weeks ago. We all left NIH with a deeper appreciation of the exciting work your staff do every day to find ways to save lives.

I am proud that last year this Congress was able to increase NIH funding by \$2 billion. I am confident that through these efforts, one day we will find cures for diseases like cancer and Alzheimer's.

I was therefore especially disappointed to see the proposed budget cut to the National Institutes of Health this year. The proposal to divert \$1 billion of biomedical research funds to the mandatory side of the budget ledger and rely on new and, possibly unlikely, authorizations to continue the advances we have made in increasing research funding is disheartening. Frankly, I do not plan to let the \$1 billion cut stand. We need to ensure a sufficient basic biomedical research base is sustained to pave the way for these long-term advancements. Proposing new one-time mandatory spending that may never materialize is not the path to do this. I look forward to discussing the effects of the President's proposed discretionary budget cuts to your research this morning.

I also want to stress how important it is to ensure we continue to focus on the next generation of investigators. We know how long it takes for a new drug or treatment to make it from the lab to the patient, so without a pipeline of young researchers committed to following the process, we won't be able to find the cures we seek.

I will be asking some questions this morning about a variety of issues like the Institutional Development Award, Alzheimer's disease, and the Cancer Moonshot. I hope to learn more this morning on how the increases we provided for NIH this year are being used to move us toward cures for these diseases that cause so much suffering in our Nation.

So without further ado, I welcome Dr. Francis Collins, the NIH Director, to the Subcommittee. Dr. Collins is accompanied by four of his Institute Directors who can assist in answering specific Member questions. They are:

- Dr. Anthony S. Fauci, M.D., Director, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases;
- Dr. Richard Hodes, M.D., Director, National Institute of Aging;
- Dr. Doug Lowy, M.D., Acting Director, National Cancer Institute; and
- Dr. Nora D. Volkow, M.D., Director, National Institute on Drug Abuse.

As a reminder to the Subcommittee and our witnesses, we will abide by the 5 minute rule, and before we begin, I would like to yield the floor to our Ranking Member, the Gentlelady from Connecticut, for an opening statement.

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