



## **National Institutes of Health (NIH) Funding Fact Sheet**

The American Society of Hematology (ASH) represents over 17,000 clinicians and scientists committed to the study and treatment of blood and blood-related diseases. The patients we treat include those with blood cancers, bleeding and clotting disorders, anemia, and serious hereditary diseases such as sickle cell disease and thalassemia. In addition, hematologists have been pioneers in the fields of bone marrow transplantation and gene therapy and hematology research has been a pathway for new avenues of inquiry.

Most of the research that has produced cures and treatments for hematologic diseases has been funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The study of blood and its disorders is a trans-NIH issue involving many institutes at the NIH, including the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute (NHLBI), the National Cancer Institute (NCI), the National Institute of Diabetes, Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK), and the National Institute on Aging (NIA).

NIH is one of the many of nondefense discretionary (NDD) programs that provide for the benefit of all, including medical and scientific research; education and job training; infrastructure; and public health. Every day these programs support economic growth and strengthen the health, safety and economic stability of every American in every state and community across the nation.

As the primary federal agency responsible for conducting and supporting medical research, NIH-funded research drives scientific innovation and develops new and better diagnostics, prevention strategies, and more effective treatments. NIH-funded research also contributes to the nation's economic strength by creating skilled, high-paying jobs; new products and industries; and improved technologies. The partnership between the NIH and America's scientific research community is a national investment in improving health and quality of life, and strengthening the nation's long-term economy.

- **More than 80 percent of NIH research funding is awarded to more than 2,500 universities, medical schools, teaching hospitals, and other research institutions, located in every state.** Research is funded through more than 57,000 competitive, peer-reviewed grants and contracts to more than 300,000 research personnel.
- **Biomedical research plays an important role in stimulating our economy.** It creates and/or saves high-wage, high-tech jobs at a critical time for the U.S. economy. A report issued by United for Medical Research estimated that in 2012 alone, NIH funding directly supported more than 402,000 jobs and \$57.8 billion in economic output nationwide. Discoveries arising from NIH-funded research are also a foundation for the U.S. biomedical industry, which contributed \$69 billion to our GDP in 2011.
- **Long term, NIH-funded R&D sparks U.S. economic innovation.** NIH is an engine of innovation and crucial for the global competitive stature of the United States. Federal research funding, a large portion of which has come from NIH, contributed to the development of 48% of all drugs approved by the FDA and 65% of drugs that received priority review between 1988 and 2005. And, from 2003 to 2012, NIH-funded researchers produced 8,998 unique patents.

In the current tight budget environment, ASH recognizes the difficult decisions Congress must make as it seeks to improve the nation's fiscal stability. Yet, it is imperative that such efforts be grounded in the goal of securing the prosperity and well-being of the American people.

**The American Society of Hematology thanks Congress for the recent increases in annual funding for the NIH and urges Congress to maintain support for medical research by continuing to invest in the NIH.**