

Testimony of David D. Chaplin, M.D., Ph.D.,
on behalf of The American Association of Immunologists (AAI),
Submitted to the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on
Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies,
Regarding the Fiscal Year 2020 Budget for the National Institutes of Health
May 28, 2019

The American Association of Immunologists (AAI), the nation's largest professional society of research scientists and physicians who study the immune system, respectfully submits this testimony regarding fiscal year (FY) 2020 appropriations for the National Institutes of Health (NIH). AAI recommends an appropriation of at least \$41.6 billion for FY 2020 to enable NIH to fund critically important new and ongoing immunological research, support the current – and next – generation of biomedical researchers, and ensure continued U.S. leadership in basic, translational, and clinical research.

The Recent History (with a Nobel Prize) – and the Exciting Future – of Immunology

For more than a century, the immune system had been defined by its role protecting against infectious agents, such as viruses, bacteria, and parasites, that cause disease. That understanding has evolved dramatically. Research has since demonstrated

NIH also serves as an indispensable scientific leader both in the U.S. and internationally. The steward of more than \$39 billion in federal funds, NIH keeps our nation's leaders apprised of scientific advancements, research priorities, and emerging threats, and works to ensure that taxpayer dollars are properly and prudently spent. It oversees and establishes standards for the conduct of scientific research at academic institutions in the U.S. NIH also develops and sustains collaborations between the U.S. and other nations to work toward common goals, and between the federal government and the private sector, including the pharmaceutical, biotechnology, and medical device industries, which rely on NIH-supported basic research to provide a foundation of new knowledge upon which they can build.

Funding Increases Have Restored Some, But Not All, of NIH's Purchasing Power

Through generous, needed increases of \$3 billion in FY 2018 and \$2 billion each in FY 2016, FY 2017, and FY 2019 (including supplemental funding to support initiatives authorized by the 21st Century Cures Act), this subcommittee and the full Congress have helped restore some of the lost purchasing power that NIH experienced following

