

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

Fiscal Year 2016 Budget Request

Witness appearing before the  
House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, Education, and Related Agencies

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Good morning, Chairman Cole, Ranking Member DeLauro, and distinguished Members of the Subcommittee. I am Francis S. Collins, M.D., Ph.D., and I am the Director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). It is an honor to appear before you today to present the Administration's fiscal year (FY) 2016 budget request for the NIH, and provide an overview of our central role in enhancing the nation's health through scientific discovery.

Before I discuss our diverse investments in biomedical research and the exciting scientific opportunities on the horizon, I want to thank this Subcommittee for the recent FY 2015 Omnibus Appropriation bill. We are truly grateful for your leadership.

As the nation's premier biomedical research agency, NIH's mission is to seek fundamental knowledge about the nature and behavior of living systems, and to apply that knowledge to enhance human health, lengthen life, and reduce illness and disability. I can report to you today

complicated name, the concept is rather simple—CRISPR technology acts like a precise molecular scalpel that can target genetic mutations in order to correct the genome. CRISPR was discovered by basic science investigators trying to understand how certain bacteria resist infection by viruses, and has already revolutionized genetic research in cells and animal models. Combining this approach with rapid developments in induced pluripotent stem (iPS) cell biology holds out the promise of powerful new

genomics research to understand the development of resistance to targeted therapy, to apply non-invasive methods to track patients' responses to treatment, and to explore the efficacy of new drug combinations targeted to specific tumor mutations.

As a longer term goal of this initiative, NIH will also launch a national research cohort of one million or mo



President's FY 2016 budget request for the NIH is \$31.311 billion, \$1 billion or 3.3 percent above the enacted FY 2015 level. This budget request reflects the President's and the Secretary's commitment to