DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

Hearing on the FY 2022 Budget Request for the National Institutes of

Health

Witness appearing before the

House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, Education, and Related Agencies

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Good morning, Chairwoman DeLauro, Ranking Member Cole, and distinguished

Members of the Subcommittee. I am Francis S. Collins, M.D., Ph.D., and I have served as the

Director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) since 2009. It is an honor to appear before

you today.

Development (NICHD) is leading a multi-institute initiative known as the Collaboration to

Assess Risk and Identify loNG-term outcomes for Children with COVID (CARING for

Children with COVID), which will assess both short-term and long-term effects of MIS-C and

other severe illness related to COVID-19 in children, including cardiovascular and

neurodevelopmental complications.

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research efforts to investigate the impact of climate on human health, with the goal to understand all aspects of health-related climate vulnerability. Therefore, the President's Request includes a $100 million increase for research on the human health impacts of climate change.

The FY 2022 President's Discretionary Request makes a major additional investment to address the opioid crisis. The crisis of opioid misuse, addiction, and overdose in the United States is a rapidly evolving and urgent public health emergency that has been exacerbated by the coronavirus pandemic. Since the declaration of a public health emergency for COVID, illicit fentanyl use and heroin use have increased, and overdoses in May 2020 were 42 percent higher than in May 2019.

The use of opioids together with stimulants, such as methamphetamine, is increasing; and deaths attributed to using these combinations are likewise increasing. Taking note of these trends, FY 2021 appropriation language expanded allowable use of Helping to End Addiction Long-term (HEAL) funds to include research related to stimulant misuse and addiction. Identifying how opioids and stimulants interact in combination to produce increased toxicity will enhance our ability to develop medications to prevent and treat comorbid opioid and stimulant use disorders and overdoses associated with this combination of drugs.

Finally, I'd like to take a moment to thank this Subcommittee for its recognition over the last two years that America's continuing leadership in biomedical research requires infrastructure and facilities that are conducive to cutting-edge research. With your support, we will break ground in the near future on a new Surgical, Radiological, and Laboratory Medicine division of our Clinical Center, which will replace severely outdated and deteriorating operating suites and lab space with state-of-the-art facilities. NIH

continuously works to ensure that the buildings and infrastructure on its campuses are safe and reliable, and that these real property assets evolve in support of science – but NIH's backlog of maintenance and repair is now nearly $2.5 billion. The President's FY 2022 Discretionary Request includes $250 million to make progress on reducing this backlog and requests flexibility for Institutes and Centers to fund construction, repair, and improvement projects.

COVID-19 compelled us to perform a stress test on biomedical research enterprise. The enterprise performed nobly. We found what worked, and