ENDOCRINE SOCIETY
Hormone Science to Health

FY 2022 HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE PUBLIC TESTIMONY
SUBMITTED BY THE ENDOCRINE SOCIETY FOR THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES
THE NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH, TITLE X, AND CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

The Endocrine Society thanks the Subcommittee for the opportunity to submit the following testimony regarding Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 federal appropriations for biomedical research and public health programs. The Endocrine Society is the world's oldest and largest professional organization of endocrinologists representing approximately 18,000 members worldwide. The Society's membership includes basic and clinical scientists who receive support from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) for research on endocrine diseases that affect millions of Americans, such as diabetes, thyroid disorders, cancer, infertility, aging, obesity and bone disease. Our membership also includes clinicians who depend on new scientific advances to better treat and cure these diseases. The Society is dedicated to promoting excellence in research, education, and clinical practice in the field of endocrinology. **The impact of the coronavirus is a compelling illustration of why we must increase funding for the NIH and CDC to protect public health. To support necessary advances in biomedical research to improve health, the Endocrine Society recommends the NIH receive funding of at least $46.1 billion for fiscal year (FY) 2021; to facilitate the translation of these advances to improve public health, the Endocrine Society recommends the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) receive**

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funding of at least $10 billion; and to ensure that women have access to appropriate health services, we recommend that the Title X program be funded at $737 million. This request does not reflect emergency supplemental funds or new programs situated in NIH including the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health proposed by the administration.

Endocrine Research Improves Public Health

Sustained investment by the United States federal government in biomedical research has dramatically advanced the health and improved the lives of the American people. The United States' NIH-supported scientists represent the vanguard of researchers making fundamental biological discoveries and developing applied therapies that advance our understanding of, and ability to treat human diseases. Their research has led to new medical treatments, saved innumerable lives, reduced human suffering, and launched entire new industries.

Endocrine scientists are a vital component of our nation's biomedical research enterprise and are integral to the healthcare infrastructure in the United States. Endocrine Society members study how hormones contribute to the overall function of the body and how the glands and organs of the endocrine system work together to keep us healthy. Physiological functions governed by the endocrine system are essential to overall wellbeing: endocrine functions include reproduction, the body's response to stress and injury, sexual development, energy balance and metabolism, and bone and muscle strength.

Endocrinologists also study interrelated systems, for example how hormones produced by fat influence the development of cancer or susceptibility to infections.

Endocrine Research is Supported by Numerous NIH Institutes

Endocrine diseases and disorders are studied by researchers funded by multiple NIH Institutes and Centers (ICs). As such, it is critical for NIH to receive a strong base appropriation with proportional increases for all ICs. For example:

- Diabetologists funded by the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK) are advancing knowledge of inequities contribute to health disparities in outcomes associated with COVID-19[1]. Despite the critical importance of this issue, NIDDK received a much lower increase in funding in FY 2021, relative to other ICs.
- Endocrine researchers funded by the National Institute of Aging increased our understanding of how hormonal treatment for menopause might improve stress responses in women[2].
- Researchers funded by the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) are discovering how hormones influence

[1] Ebekozien, O., et al., The Journal of Clinical Endocrinology & Metabolism, Volume 106, Issue 4, April 2021, Pages e1755–e1762, https://doi.org/10.1210/clinem/dgaa920

[2] https://www.endocrine.org/news-room/press-release-archives/2017/treating-menopausal-symptoms-can-protect-against-stress-negative-effects Accessed March 11, 2018.

the gut microbiome, which in turn can influence the development of polycystic ovarian syndrome (PCOS)[3].

- Endocrine oncologists supported by the National Cancer Institute (NCI) discovered how certain drugs used during pregnancy can contribute to cancer risk in offspring[4].
- National Institute of Environmental Health Science (NIEHS)-funded researchers are investigating how chemicals found in cosmetic products can disrupt endocrine systems resulting in increased cancer risk[5].

NIH Requires Steady, Sustainable Funding Increases

The Endocrine Society appreciates increases to the NIH budget in recent fiscal years; however, the biomedical research community requires steady, sustainable increases across the biomedical research enterprise in funding to ensure that the promise of scientific discovery can efficiently be translated into new cures. Research budgets have been further stretched across NIH to drive research to help us address the COVID-19 pandemic, and emergency supplemental funds have not provided sufficient resources to advance necessary research on COVID-19 while also sustaining progress on other national priorities. Consequently, NIH grant success rates are predicted to remain close to historically low

[3] Torres, PJ, et al., The Journal of Clinical Endocrinology & Metabolism, jc.2017-02153.
[4] https://www.endocrine.org/news-and-advocacy/news-room/featured-science-from-endo-2021/drug-used-during-pregnancy-may-increase-cancer-risk-in-mothers-adult-children
[5] https://endocrinenews.endocrine.org/edc-exposure-during-pregnancy-may-reduce-breast-cancer-protection/

averages, meaning highly skilled scientists will continue to spend more time writing highly meritorious grants that will not be funded. Young scientists will also continue to be driven out of biomedical research careers due to the lack of funding.

Adequate Funding of CDC Programs Is Necessary to Protect the Public's Health

The CDC plays a critical role in protecting the public's health by applying new knowledge to the promotion of health and prevention of chronic diseases, including diabetes. The Division of Diabetes Translation administers the National Diabetes Prevention Program (National DPP), which addresses the increasing burden of prediabetes and Type 2 Diabetes in the United States. The National DPP creates public and private partnerships to provide evidence-based, cost-effective interventions that prevent diabetes in community-based settings. Through structured lifestyle change programs at local YMCAs or other community centers, individuals with prediabetes can reduce the risk of developing diabetes by 58% in those under 60 and by 71% in those 60 and older[6]. In addition to supporting public health and prevention activities, CDC's Clinical Standardization Programs in the Center for Environmental Health are critical to improving accurate and reliable testing of hormones, appropriate diagnosis and treatment of disease, and reproduceable public health research. Adequate funding is critically important to ensure that CDC has the capacity to address existing and emerging threats to public health in the United States and around the world.

[6] The Diabetes Prevention Program (DPP) Research Group *Diabetes Care*. 2002 Dec;25(12):2165-71.

Title X Funding Provides Necessary Services and Reduces Healthcare Costs

Title X is an important source of funding for ensuring reproductive health benefits including both contraceptive and preventive services to women. In 2015, a study found that Title X-funded health centers prevented 822,000 unintended pregnancies, resulting in savings of $7 billion to federal and state governments. Offering affordable access to contraception can have a measurable impact on these costs. For every public dollar invested in contraception, short-term Medicaid expenditures are reduced by $7.09 for the pregnancy, delivery, and early childhood care related to births from unintended pregnancies, resulting in savings of $7 billion to federal and state governments[7]. Title X is the main point of care for low income, under- or un-insured, adults and adolescents for affordable contraception, cancer screenings, sexually transmitted disease testing and treatment, and medically-accurate information on family planning options. However, to provide these services to the over 4 million people who depend on Title X-funded centers, Title X is significantly underfunded.

FY 2022 Funding Requests

In conclusion, to avoid loss of promising research opportunities, allow budgets to keep pace with inflation, support our public health infrastructure, and assure high-quality, evidence-based, and patient-centered family planning care, the Endocrine Society recommends that

[7] Frost JJ, et al., Publicly Funded Contraceptive Services at U.S. Clinics, 2015, New York: Guttmacher Institute, 2017.

the Subcommittee provide at least the following funding amounts through the FY 2022 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies appropriations bill:

- **$46.1 billion for the National Institutes of Health**
- **$10 billion for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**
- **$737 million for Title X**