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**FY 2011 HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE PUBLIC TESTIMONY**  
**SUBMITTED BY THE ENDOCRINE SOCIETY**  
**FOR THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,**  
**EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES**  
**DIRECTED AT THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN**  
**SERVICES/NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH**

The Endocrine Society is pleased to submit the following testimony regarding Fiscal Year 2011 federal appropriations for biomedical research, with an emphasis on appropriations for the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The Endocrine Society is the world's largest and most active professional organization of endocrinologists representing more than 14,000 members worldwide. Our organization is dedicated to promoting excellence in research, education, and clinical practice in the field of endocrinology. The Society's membership includes thousands of researchers who depend on federal support for their careers and their scientific advances.

Each year, the NIH funds thousands of research grants, facilitating the discovery of methods of prevention, treatment, and cure for debilitating diseases that negatively impact the health of the nation's citizens and fuel rising health care costs. Nearly half of all Americans have a chronic medical condition, and these diseases now cause more than half of all deaths worldwide. Deaths attributed to chronic conditions could reach 36 million by 2015 if the trend continues unabated.

Congress and President Obama recognized the contributions of NIH to the health of the nation and the nation's economy by awarding the agency more than \$10 billion through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. These funds supported more than 12,000 grants and created more than 50,000 jobs. ARRA funds have allowed the NIH to award grants, including those described in the bulleted list below, which will lead to breakthroughs in hundreds of disease areas, including those chronic diseases that result in the death of so many people each year.

- A project is using information from a clinical trial in people with type 2 diabetes and heart disease to examine the association between fat cell hormones and CVD, including their potential usefulness in prognosis, monitoring effects of therapy, and identifying risk
- A project will conduct research in mice to develop a vehicle to deliver a specific gene that may prevent type 1 diabetes
- A grant to provide insights into the mechanisms by which diet and exercise reduce abdominal fatness and improve cardiovascular health in overweight and obese persons with type 2 diabetes. These mechanisms include systemic inflammation, insulin sensitivity, and aerobic and strength fitness

- Researchers will define how certain carbohydrate molecules affect hormone function, to better understand reproductive development, and development of breast and prostate cancer
- Scientists will assess how a specific gene helps trigger the development of stem cells into sperm, which could lead to new treatments for male infertility or new contraceptive targets
- A project will investigate the role of developmental exposure to Bisphenol A (BPA) on obesity and metabolic syndrome.

Most of these grants would not have been funded through the regular grant approval process, and without the ARRA funds, the discoveries that are expected to result from these projects would never have a chance to be made. Furthermore, many of the scientists funded through these grants may never have received the funds necessary to start or continue their careers, including many first-time awardees. As the United States continues to lose its place as the world leader in innovation, we cannot miss out on opportunities to award bright young scientists and engage them in the research process.

Unfortunately, the grants and jobs created will disappear at the end of FY 2010 if Congress does not sustain the momentum created by the ARRA funds with a significant increase in the FY 2011 budget. While it is not feasible to expect that the NIH budget can be increased in one year to a level that will sustain the 12,000 grants awarded through the ARRA funds, Congress must do what it can to ensure that NIH receives steady, sustainable, predictable increases that avoid the boom and bust cycle that NIH experienced with the doubling of its budget, and now faces again with the end of the ARRA funds.

The Endocrine Society remains deeply concerned about the future of biomedical research in the United States without sustained support from the federal government. The Society strongly supports the continued increase in federal funding for biomedical research in order to provide the additional resources needed to enable American scientists to address the burgeoning scientific opportunities and new health challenges that continue to confront us. The Endocrine Society recommends that NIH receive at least \$37 billion in FY 2011 to prepare for the post-stimulus era and ensure the steady and sustainable growth necessary to continue building on the advances made by scientists during the past decade.