THE ENDOCRINE SOCIETY

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FY 2010 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 2010 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 over 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.

Since the doubling of its budget, the NIH has received annual funding increases below the rate of biomedical inflation. FY 2009 appropriations resulted in the first real-dollar increase in NIH funding since FY 2003. This decline in useable dollars has resulted in a significant decrease in the number of R01 grants funded. In 2003, the number of new and continuing R01s was 7,211; the number of grants awarded in 2008 dropped to 5,886. As a result of the decreasing number of grants awarded, the success rate for new R01 grants dropped from 25.5 percent in 1999 to a low of 16.3 percent in 2006 (the 2008 success rate was 19 percent). Not only does the decline in grants affect the number of scientists who are able to continue their research and discover new treatments and cures, it also has a significant impact on the United States economy.

In fiscal year 2007, every $1 million that the public invested in NIH research generated $2.21 million in new business activity across the nation. At a recent House Energy and Commerce Committee hearing, Dr. Raynard Kington, Acting Director of the NIH, stated that each NIH grant supports seven jobs on average. Since grants are dispersed to all 50 states and 90 percent of congressional districts, increasing funding for science will have a significant positive impact on job growth. And unlike many other proposals to stimulate the economy, funding NIH grants can have an immediate impact on the economy because these grants can be funded in a matter of weeks, stimulating local economies through salaries and purchase of equipment, laboratory supplies, and vendor services.

Members of Congress and President Obama recognized the positive impact that funding NIH research can have on the economy and allocated over $10 billion to the NIH in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. These funds will go a long way towards increasing the success rate of new R01 applications, keeping scientists employed, and creating new jobs. The Endocrine Society thanks Congress for the support of biomedical research funding in the ARRA.

However, the federal government needs to make a long-term, sustainable commitment to biomedical research funding. The money allocated to the NIH in the ARRA is a one-time

infusion of money, and it is unclear how much NIH's budget will be when the stimulus funds run out at the end of FY 2010. These funds will create thousands of new jobs, most of which will end when FY 2011 begins if Congress does not bring NIH's budget closer to $40 billion than to $30 billion. The loss of these jobs could have a drastic effect on our economy and counteract the benefits realized during FY 2009 and 2010 as a result of the stimulus funding.

While the nation is struggling with a failing economy, health reform is also on the top of the minds of members of Congress and the American people. With the aging of the Baby Boomer generation, the incidence of costly, chronic conditions will significantly increase, and a large portion of the projected increase in health care costs will be as a result of escalating costs associated with diabetes, obesity, hypertension, Alzheimer's disease, muscular dystrophy, cystic fibrosis, and stroke. In order to prevent and treat these diseases, and save the country billions in healthcare costs, significant investment in biomedical research will be needed. For instance, treatments that delay or prevent diabetic retinopathy save the country $1.6 billion a year, and new treatments that delay the onset and progression of Alzheimer's disease by five years can save $50 billion a year in health care costs.

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 supports President Obama's campaign pledge to double the NIH budget over ten years. We therefore recommend that NIH receive an increase of at least seven percent in FY 2010 to prepare for the post-stimulus era and ensure the steady, sustainable growth necessary to complete the President's vision of doubling the investment in basic and clinical research.