

IMPROVING AND DEFENDING HUMAN HEALTH

This year, the budget will provide for much-needed enhancement of research to bolster our defense against the use of biological agents as terrorist weapons. Increasing the strength of such defenses, through better vaccines to prevent infection, new and more effective drugs to treat such illnesses and technologies to alert us to the presence of dangerous microorganisms will also serve to revitalize our public health infrastructure, providing the tools to address infectious disease outbreaks, whether they occur naturally or by the hand of man.

Biodefense R&D

The 2003 budget provides \$5.9 billion for bioterrorism preparedness, which includes \$2.4 billion for R&D. Government-supported scientists will work together with our world-class pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries to produce the next generation of vaccines to prevent infection. Funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will also help ensure that top researchers have the facilities to work safely with deadly microbes and the materials and resources to detect infection faster and more accurately.

Improving Public Health

With a single campaign, we can accomplish two goals: reinforce and reinvigorate our efforts to improve public health through the defeat of naturally emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases, and deter criminals from employing biological agents in acts of terrorism. Specifically:

- \$1.75 billion will be used at NIH to accelerate genomic sequencing of dangerous pathogens, to develop improved anthrax and smallpox vaccines, to build new and improve existing laboratory and research facilities, and conduct the basic research underpinning the development of new detection technology.
- \$420 million is requested for the Department of Defense to expand a base of knowledge on countermeasures to bioweapons and to improve agent identification, detection, and area monitoring.

Basic and Biomedical Research - Doubling the NIH Budget

NIH comprises 25 Institutes and Centers whose collective mission is to sponsor and conduct biomedical research and research training that leads to better health for all Americans. The majority of NIH's funding supports more than 50,000 scientists working in 2,000 institutions across the United States. With the help of NIH grants, these scientists have been making great advances in the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of illness. NIH grants are subject to a merit-based, peer-reviewed system.

During the presidential campaign, the President promised to double the budget of the NIH by 2003 to \$27.3 billion, from the 1998 level of \$13.6 billion. The 2003 budget includes the final installment of \$3.9 billion (a 17 percent increase over 2002) needed to fulfill this commitment, which will maximize the opportunity to expand scientific discovery by increasing the number of new research grants funded. With this increase, NIH will further its efforts to support research on diseases that affect the lives of all Americans. For example, the budget provides \$5.5 billion for cancer-related research from the National Cancer Institute and other NIH Institutes.