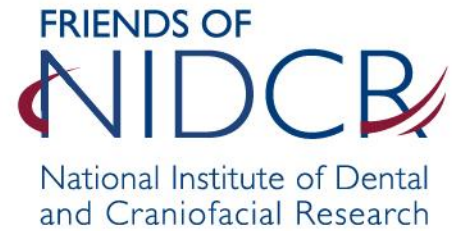


March 15, 2021



The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chair
Appropriations Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
Appropriations Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Chairman
Appropriations Committee
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Vice Chairman
Appropriations Committee
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairs DeLauro and Leahy, Vice Chairman Shelby, and Ranking Member Granger:

As you begin the Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 appropriations process, the undersigned organizations, representing the Friends of National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (FNIDCR), respectfully request that you fund the **National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR) at \$520 million** and the **National Institutes of Health at \$46.111 billion**. Funding at these recommended levels will allow for the entities' base budgets to keep pace with the biomedical research and development price index (BRDPI) and provide meaningful growth of 5%.

We are grateful to Congress for consistently prioritizing NIH research by providing steady and meaningful funding increases. NIH's research, programs, and networks are among the most valuable investments made on behalf of the American people. As our nation continues to respond to the global COVID-19 pandemic, we are reminded of the importance of the federal investment in science, and in particular, biomedical research. Time and again, we have seen how these sustained investments in federal research yield tremendous benefits, and especially now, we cannot afford to shortchange our nation's federal scientific agencies. The requested 5% growth above BRDPI would provide critical support for these research entities, their diverse portfolios, and the scientific workforce.

However, standard funding increases alone do not account for how hard the scientific enterprise was hit by the COVID-19 pandemic. Not only did pandemic-induced closures of university campuses and laboratories require research to be scaled back or halted entirely, but the pandemic also forced research agencies to shift current resources and funding to coronavirus-related research.

NIDCR, the largest institution dedicated exclusively to research to improve dental, oral, and craniofacial (skull and face) health, is one of the NIH Institutes that has prioritized the critical research needed in the fight against COVID-19. To date, NIDCR has funded approximately **\$3.9 million of immediate and high impact research to protect and ensure the safety of personnel and patients in dental practices during the COVID-19 pandemic**, and the Institute will soon release a second round of funding related to COVID-19.¹ The areas of study have touched areas critical to the nation's public

¹ National Advisory Dental and Craniofacial Research Council - January 2021. National Institutes of Health, 2021. <https://videocast.nih.gov/watch=38984>.

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health, including the use of personal protective equipment (PPE) in dental settings, aerosol and droplet transmission in dental settings, and the use of biosensors to detect SARS-CoV-2 in saliva.

Across the federal government, research agencies are facing the far-reaching consequences this public health emergency has had on the nation's research establishment, including its capacity and workforce. Not only will individuals in each phase of their research career face implications from months-long lab and facility closures, but researchers have also repurposed equipment, supplies, and personnel to respond to the COVID-19 crisis, with universities shouldering much of these costs. While research needs related to COVID-19 are pressing, resources are being diverted from research that itself makes invaluable contributions to society's public health needs.

Therefore, the Friends of NIDCR request that, in addition to the requested funding increases for NIDCR and NIH's base budgets, Congress also **provide emergency supplemental funding for federal agencies to support the nation's research enterprise as well as COVID-19-related expenses that touch both pandemic and non-pandemic research**. Additional resources are needed to not only allow for the recovery of pre-pandemic research, but also to support the next generation of scientists. Such support will help mitigate the impact of this pandemic on our nation's research infrastructure.

The COVID-19 pandemic has been a stark reminder of the crucial role that biomedical and public health research play in our society. The research enterprise is essential to safeguarding public health, national security, economic growth and competitiveness in global scientific leadership. The Friends of NIDCR urge Congress to continue its longstanding bipartisan commitment to scientific advancement and to prioritize robust funding for NIDCR and NIH in FY 2022 spending legislation.

We thank you for your continued efforts in response to this pandemic and your leadership on FY 2022 appropriations legislation. We stand ready to assist in any way possible. If you have questions or require additional information, please contact American Association for Dental Research Assistant Director of Government Affairs Lindsey Horan at lhoran@aadr.org.

Sincerely,

A.T. Still University - Arizona School of Dentistry & Oral Health
A.T. Still University - Missouri School of Dentistry & Oral Health
Adenoid Cystic Carcinoma Research Foundation
American Association for Dental Research
American Association of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgeons
American Behcet's Disease Association (ABDA)
American Chronic Pain Association
American Cleft Palate-Craniofacial Association
American Dental Association
American Dental Education Association
Dentsply Sirona, Inc.
Ear Community, Inc.
East Carolina University School of Dental Medicine
Eastman Institute for Oral Health, University of Rochester
GlaxoSmithKline Consumer Healthcare
Greater Tampa Bay Oral Health Coalition

Harvard School of Dental Medicine
International Foundation for Autoimmune & Autoinflammatory Arthritis (AiArthritis)
International Pemphigus Pemphigoid Foundation
Loma Linda University School of Dentistry
Lupus and Allied Diseases Association, Inc.
Lymphangiomatosis & Gorham's Disease Alliance
Medical University of South Carolina
Moebius Syndrome Foundation
myFace
National Foundation for Ectodermal Dysplasias
New York University College of Dentistry
Nova Southeastern University College of Dental Medicine
NYU College of Dentistry
Roseman University College of Dental Medicine
Sjögren's Foundation
Southern Illinois University School of Dental Medicine
SPOHNC (Support For People With Oral And Head And Neck Cancer)
Texas A&M Health
The Forsyth Institute
UCLA
UCSF School of Dentistry
University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine
University at Buffalo, School of Dental Medicine
University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Dentistry
University of Connecticut School of Dental Medicine
University of Florida College of Dentistry
University of Iowa
University of Minnesota School of Dentistry
University of Nebraska Medical Center, College of Dentistry
University of Texas School of Dentistry at Houston
University of the Pacific, Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry
University of Utah School of Dentistry
University of Washington School of Dentistry
Western University of Health Sciences College of Dental Medicine

Cc: House Appropriations Committee
Senate Appropriations Committee