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## **NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH (NIH)**

President Bush is proposing no increase for NIH in FY2007. Therefore, if Congress enacts the President's budget, NIH would be funded at \$28.6 billion in FY2007, identical to what it is receiving this year. However, NIH's purchasing power would decline in FY2007 because the Biomedical Research and Development Price Index (BRDPI) is forecasted to be 3.5 percent in FY2007.

### **Specific NIH Budget Information:**

- Research Project Grants (RPG's) represent 53 percent of the total NIH budget request.
- NIH plans to support 9,337 competing RPG's in FY2007, an increase of 275 over FY2006.
- The total number of RPG's to be awarded in FY2007 will decline by 656 due primarily to a large number of non-competing grants that were initiated during the NIH doubling years coming to completion in FY2006.
- Every NIH Institute and Center (IC) is being cut except for NIAID (NIAID's budget is increasing by \$12 million over FY2006 to expand pandemic influenza research).
- NCI's budget is declining by \$40 million and NHLBI's budget is declining by \$21 million. A complete breakdown by IC is available by clicking on the link below.
- Funds designated to NIH Roadmap activities will increase by \$113 million to total \$443 million (34 percent increase) in FY2007. OD is contributing \$111 million and IC's will contribute \$332 million to Roadmap.
- Biodefense efforts are increasing by \$110 million to total \$1.9 billion in FY2007.
- A new \$160 million fund within the Office of the Director will fund advanced development of biodefense measures that are priority Project Bioshield acquisition targets.

More information, including budget proposals for each IC, is available [here](#).

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## NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION (NSF)

For FY2007, NSF's budget request is \$6.02 billion—an increase of \$439 million or 7.9 percent above the FY2006 level of \$5.58 billion. This is the first step in doubling the agency's budget by FY2016. According to NSF Director Arden Bement, Ph.D., this funding level will allow the agency to fund 500 new grants.

Within the total NSF budget:

- The research and related activities account (RRA) will receive \$4.665 billion, an increase of \$334 million or 7.7 percent over FY2006. Within RRA, the bioscience directorate is scheduled to receive \$607.85 million, a \$31.16 million or 5.4% increase over FY2006.
- The education and human resources account will receive \$816.22 million, an increase of \$19.53 million or 2.5 percent over FY2006 levels.
- The major research equipment and facilities construction account will receive \$240.45 million, an increase of \$49.57 million or 26 percent over FY2006 levels.

As a point of reference, this year's budget request is only roughly \$400 million less than the \$6.4 billion FASEB is calling on Congress to provide NSF this fiscal year.

A link to the NSF budget request can be found [here](#).

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY (DOE)

For FY2007, the Department of Energy's request for the Office of Science is \$4.1 billion, a \$505 million or 14.1 percent increase over FY2006 funding. This budget puts DOE's Office of Science on the path to doubling its budget by FY2016. According to the press release accompanying the budget, the increased funding represents a major contribution to our national investment in basic science research, which is critical to ensuring American competitiveness in the world, and to enhancing our energy security in the years ahead.

Within DOE's Office of Science, Biological and Environmental Research will receive \$510.3 million. This is a \$54.6 million increase over FASEB's FY2006 request. According to DOE, this program includes increases for several high visibility activities. The microbe-based Genomics GTL program research request increases by \$49 million over the FY2006 Appropriation for additional research on imagining and characterization of complex microbial communities for energy and environmental applications, including hydrogen production. The Human Genome program increases by \$11.7 million to support enhanced operations at the joint Genome Institute. Funding for Medical Applications research remains level.

The DOE's Office of Science request is only \$50 million below FASEB's FY2007 federal funding request of \$4.15 billion for DOE's Office of Science. A [link](#) to the DOE Office of Science budget request is available for viewing.

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## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA)

The President's budget is quite supportive of the competitive grants program of the National Research Initiative (NRI) within the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). The budget includes language favoring competitive, peer review over earmarking funding, stating "The Administration strongly favors the use of competitive awards as the most effective way of assuring quality." In keeping with that objective, the FY2007 budget proposes \$248 million for NRI, an increase of 37 percent over the previous year. FASEB's federal funding report supports this number. The challenge will be maintaining this level through the appropriations process; the members of the Senate and House appropriations committees typically favor earmarking funds at USDA rather than supporting the competitive grants programs. The USDA budget request to Congress can be found [here](#).

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## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS (VA)

In FY2007, \$399 million is requested for costs of the VA Medical Research Program, \$13 million less than the \$412 million appropriated for FY2006. Overall, the president's FY2007 budget for VA will seek a record \$80.6 billion, an increase of \$8.8 billion, or 12.2 percent, above the budget for 2006. The overwhelming majority of these resources are targeted for health care and disability compensation.

For more information, read the [press release](#) from VA.

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## NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION (NASA)

President Bush's FY2007 budget for NASA's Human System Research and Technology (HRS&T) theme is quite disappointing this year. HRS&T, which was formerly the Office of Biological and Physical Research prior to the 2004 NASA reorganization, is scheduled to receive \$274.6 million under the President's FY2007 request. This is a staggering decrease of \$349.3 million or 56% decline from the FY2006 budget.

According to the budget request, this significant drop in budget was predicated on the results of the Exploration Systems Architecture Study which prioritized technology development programs by requirements and schedules. This led to a realistic set of requirements instead of the capability-based programs of the past. By adopting a requirements-based philosophy in the redirection of its Exploration programs, NASA will be able to reprioritize International Space Station research and realize efficiencies in its investments by focusing them on technologies applicable to human exploration of the solar system. Such efficiencies allow NASA

to adjust the investment profile for HSR&T and still return significant benefits to the space program.

This budget requests greatly fails FASEB's FY2007 funding recommendation that NASA restore funding for basic life sciences research, increase funding for "countermeasures research" needed for human space travel, and allocate funding to investigator-initiated, peer reviewed life sciences research in FY2007.

Detailed information on the NASA budget can be found on the [website](#).

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## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION-FASEB PRESS RELEASES**

FASEB issued two press releases, [supporting the proposal](#) to increase funding for NSF and DOE, and the other stating that President Bush has [failed to live up](#) to his promises by not supporting medical research, specifically by not increasing funding for NIH.

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