National Institutes of Health (NIH) Funding

The Ask

- **Senate**: Provide at least $34.1 B for the NIH in the final 2017 spending bill.
- **House**: Provide at least $34.1 B for the NIH in the final 2017 spending bill.

What is the NIH and Status of its Funding?

- Country's premier institution for medical research.
- In 2016, the NIH received $32.1 B.
- 200 Representatives and 56 Senators supported an even higher--$34.5 B—request.
- Senate Appropriations Committee approved a $2 B increase – total of $34.1 B.
- House Appropriations Subcommittee approved $33.3 B.
- Congress did not complete its 2017 spending bill by the start of the Fiscal Year October 1, so to avoid a government shut-down, Congress passed a continuing resolution or “CR” that temporarily funds government agencies and programs. This “CR” expires on December 9 and the government will shut down if Congress does not pass another CR or complete its work on the 2017 federal budget.

Why is the NIH important?

- MS currently has no cure. 14 FDA-approved medications reduce disease activity for many with relapsing forms of MS but there are no treatments available for people with progressive MS.
- Since 2012, NIH spending on MS-related research has decreased by more than $20 M.
- Decreases in funding from Congress, combined with the rising cost of doing biomedical research and inflation, means that NIH can fund less research each year.
- In 2015, the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS) was only able to fund about 14% of the submitted applications.
- NIH-funded research has helped make significant progress in understanding MS lesions and how the immune system responds to different stimuli, as well as provided the basic research to develop MS therapies.
- Explain how MS has impacted your life.

Possible Questions & Helpful Answers

**Q. Is NIH and CDMRP research duplicative?** No, the CDMRP was created by Congress to complement the work of the NIH. While the NIH is restricted to primarily fund basic and translational science, CDMRP is free to fund any type or phase of promising research. If the research qualifies for both NIH and CDMRP funding and is accepted to both, the researcher either has to withdraw one application or have the institutions fund unique aspects of the program.

**Q. Given the caps on funding, why should s/he fund or increase these research programs?** In addition to creating life-saving research, both the NIH and CDMRP help support the economy by funding outside researchers. NIH directly supports more than 400,000 jobs in all 50 states through its research programs. Additionally, living with MS or other diseases is more expensive than treating the underlying issue. More research funding can help reduce costs spent in other areas of healthcare, such as acute hospital care.