

2023 AIMBE Congressional Visits

Talking Points

What to Expect:

- Arrive early and expect the meeting to start late.
- Don't be surprised to meet with staff – they are the eyes and ears of lawmakers.
- Introduce yourself, exchange business cards and get a photo.
- Get directly to your key points and make the ask: Protect NIH medical research funding with a \$3.4 billion increase in FY 24 and NSF to \$11.9 billion for FY24
- Do NOT discuss Roe or other politically hot topics. Keep on message – AIMBE's focus is medical and biological research funding.
- Close by taking a photo to post on social media. Leave a business card. Invite the lawmaker or staff to visit your lab. Don't overstay your welcome. Most appointments are 10-15 minutes long. Start on time, get to your point, and end on time.

Who Are We:

- AIMBE is an honorific society of the most accomplished medical and biological engineers responsible for the innovation and discovery that improves health, lowers costs, and/or expands access.
- Tell your personal story – a) why basic research is critical to discovery, b) why discovery takes time and federal financial investment, c) relate your research to a discovery/cure.

Why Are We Here:

- Thank you for the recent strong increase to NIH. Those investments prepared the country for pandemic which depleted accounts.
- Holding **NIH** and **NSF** to FY22 spending caps for Debt Ceiling deal will kill America's leadership in innovation & discovery, weakening preparation for future pandemics.
- **Cancer Moonshot** authority expires in FY23. Reauthorize with \$9 billion to win this battle that still threatens so many lives and families.
- **NSF** increase for FY 23 was supplemental and now must be added to the base line to prevent critical cuts. AIMBE urges \$11.9 billion for FY 24 to fully fund the CHIPS Act.
- Research needs stable funding not up-and-down, on-again, off-again. Uncertainty of funding hurts sustained level-funding needs for research. AIMBE supports a \$3.4 billion increase for **NIH** in FY24 (\$50.9 billion) to keep pace with the biomedical research price index (BRDPI) and allow a meaningful growth of 5 percent.

What is Our ASK:

- 1) **Support NIH with \$3.4 billion increase** for FY24. Recent bumps in funding still leaves NIH underfunded for critical research needs. Congress must continue to provide a strong annual increase to restore pandemic spending. Robust funding needed to address public health issues, emerging infectious diseases, and aging population.
- 2) **Support NSF with \$11.9 billion FY 24** The FY23 supplemental funding for NSF needs to be added to its base. NSF has a unique role training next generation of scientists.
- 3) **Oppose Cross-Board Spending Caps back to FY22 As Condition for Debt Ceiling**

Introduce Yourself

- Give a **brief “elevator” introduction** explaining your name, area of research focus, and less than 60 seconds summarizing your credentials as an accomplished biomedical researcher.
- Make sure they know you are a **constituent and live in their district**. (Never discuss elections, money or political parties)
- Explain **your research focus** by telling which agency funds your work and why your research wouldn't happen without those funds. Keep it simple – no big word big and no detail.

Tell a Personal Story

- Tell **why your research is important**. Try to **relate it to a person by name** or disease that might be cured from knowledge obtained from your work. How will your research improve health, provide a cure or address a problem.
- Lawmakers and their staff meet hundreds of constituents on hundreds of different topics each week. They will only **remember you if you share an interesting story**. Make it personal. Research should be more than discovery but about finding a cure, giving hope, addressing an illness or disease. **Bring a show and tell**. Never show a chart, an Excel file or go into data. Paint a picture they can remember.

Make the Ask

- The House of Representatives is demanding across the board cuts to Fiscal Year 22 spending levels in exchange for raising the debt ceiling. The debt ceiling must be raised to pay for past spending. Capping spending at past FY22 levels would inflict critical damage to biomedical research, cause NSF program cancellations and set public health causes back at a critical time. **Opposes Cross-Board Spending Caps back to FY22 As Condition for Debt Ceiling**
- After years of spending cuts, NIH has received budget increases over the past five years. Some of these funds help prepare America for its fast response to COVID. Congress must continue robust increases to replenish spending diverted in the past two years and address new, daunting public health issues, emergency infectious disease research and the needs of an aging population. **Support NIH with \$3.4 billion increase for FY24**
- AIMBE supports the newly established **Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health** (ARPA-H) as an autonomous agency within NIH with a supplemental budget of \$1.5 billion to focus on high potential, high impact research.
- NSF appropriations have failed to keep up with inflation. Authorization levels for NAS in CHIPS and Science Act set ambitious target of \$2 billion. Congress provided \$1 billion supplemental funding for NSF last year. Now Congress needs to add this funding to NSF's base. NSF provides critical and unique funding to support interdisciplinary research and sole funding for training the next generation of scientist. **Support NSF with \$11.9 billion FY 24**
- The Cancer Moonshot was launched in 2016 with \$1.8 billion over 7 years. That funding ends this year. The **Cancer Moonshot could use \$9.9 billion in FY24** to meet critical research needs. While there are now many more success stories, every family has been impacted by cancer and research is the only cure to winning this war.