

Support National Institute of Health (NIH) Arthritis Research

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) is the largest source of funding for medical research in the world, funding thousands of scientists across America and around the globe. Under the NIH umbrella, the **National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases' (NIAMS)** improves the quality of life for people with arthritis and decreases the overall burden of the disease.

Continued Support for Research and Innovation Matters

NIH Research Helps the US Economy

In 2011, NIH research funding led to the creation of 432,094 jobs and generated \$62.13 billion in new economic activity across the country.

NIH Research Helps Our Communities

The NIH supports research in communities across America and NIAMS research is no exception. For example, over 200 people have participated in the Natural History of Rheumatic Disease in Minority Communities Study at the NIAMS Community Health Center. The study provides greater insights on rheumatoid arthritis (RA), and other forms of arthritis, in minority populations.

NIH Research Helps Our Knowledge

Basic Research at NIH/NIAMS impacts people living with arthritis today and will spur tomorrow's medical advances to address the nation's leading cause of disability. One example is osteoarthritis (OA) research at NIAMS: some of the basic research at NIAMS for cartilage regeneration could lead to the first disease-reversing drug for patients with OA.

NIH Research Helps our Health

For over 25 years, NIAMS research has led to advances for people with many forms of arthritis. Recently a randomized, controlled trial at NIAMS on the effectiveness of daily calcium supplementation for increasing bone mineral density in children with juvenile arthritis (JA) found that supplementation resulted in a small, but statistically significant increase in total body mineral density, compared with a placebo, in children with JA. It is findings like these that make research at NIAMS a national priority for American health and prosperity.

Request

Because the Arthritis Foundation believes that research holds the key to preventing, controlling and curing arthritis, the nation's leading cause of disability, we request that Congress:

- 1. Increase the NIH Budget to no less than \$32B for FY2014, the minimum needed to sustain the current level of research and account for inflation. This represents a 4.5% increase for NIH; and**
- 2. Increase the NIAMS budget proportionally (by 4.5%) to \$559 M for FY2014.**



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