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**SECOND ALZHEIMER'S PROFESSIONAL JUDGMENT BUDGET
REFLECTS URGENT NEED TO FIND A CURE OR TREATMENT**
*NIH Recommends \$414 Million Increase in Fiscal Year 2018 Research Funding
For Our Nation's Most Expensive Disease*

Washington, D.C., August 9, 2016 – The National Institutes of Health (NIH) on August 1 recommended in its second-ever professional judgment budget for Alzheimer's research a \$414 million increase for FY2018 annual spending “to meet one of the greatest challenges of our time – the development of effective treatments for and prevention of Alzheimer's and related dementias by 2025.”

The professional judgment budget reflects the current state of Alzheimer's knowledge, and “outlines the toll Alzheimer's takes on our Nation and the scientific opportunities we could pursue with enhanced funding,” NIH said in releasing the budget. The funding would support effectively deployable research identified by leading scientists to meet the 2025 prevention and treatment goal established by *the National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease*.

“Today, Alzheimer's disease is the only leading cause of death in the U.S. without a way to prevent, cure or even slow its progression. This professional judgment budget, along with recent action in Congress, demonstrates the growing awareness that Alzheimer's is a public health crisis and the urgent need to invest in research that can change the trajectory of the disease,” said Harry Johns, president and CEO of the Alzheimer's Association. “Congress has shown leadership with substantial increases in funding over the last few years. This budget offers a complete picture of the critical additional funding needed for research in the coming year, and provides important context – the devastating toll Alzheimer's is taking on people living with the disease, the health system and the economy.”

Alzheimer's is only the third disease to receive a professional judgment budget, also known as a “bypass budget,” following cancer and HIV/AIDS. In issuing the 2018 Alzheimer's bypass budget, NIH noted:

- “ALZHEIMER'S IS A LEADING CAUSE OF DEATH. Alzheimer's disease is currently ranked as the sixth leading cause of death in the U.S. Death rates for Alzheimer's increased from 2013 to 2014, while those for heart disease and cancer declined.
- “ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE IS EXPENSIVE. In the last 5 years of life for a person with dementia, health care can cost an estimated \$287,038—roughly 57% more than end-of-life care for heart disease and cancer patients. U.S. health and long-term care costs for dementia were as high as \$215 billion in 2010; these annual costs may soar to \$511 billion by 2040.”

Congress increased annual funding for research for Alzheimer's disease and related dementias to nearly \$1 billion in FY 2016. Pending House and Senate appropriations legislation could push that to nearly \$1.4 billion in FY 2017.

“Under Director Dr. Francis Collins' leadership, this professional judgment budget offers a roadmap, hope and confirmation that we must continue to significantly increase funding for Alzheimer's disease research to meet the primary goal of the National Plan,” said Johns.

In his preface to the budget, Collins said, “It is our firm belief – even in the face of the monumental challenge that is Alzheimer’s – that if we expand and build upon our current base of scientific knowledge, we can identify and implement the strategies for combating the disease that are so urgently needed.”

Because advancing age is the greatest risk factor for Alzheimer’s disease and Americans are living longer than ever before, the number of people with Alzheimer’s is projected to soar to as many as 16 million by 2050, costing the nation \$20 trillion over the next 40 years.

For more information on Alzheimer’s disease, visit the Alzheimer’s Association at alz.org.

Alzheimer’s Association

The Alzheimer’s Association is the leading voluntary health organization in Alzheimer’s care, support and research. Our mission is to eliminate Alzheimer’s disease through the advancement of research; to provide and enhance care and support for all affected; and to reduce the risk of dementia through the promotion of brain health. Our vision is a world without Alzheimer’s. For more information, visit alz.org.

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