

FISCAL YEAR 2010

FUNDING OF MUSCULOSKELETAL RESEARCH

The Orthopaedic community, comprised of patients, physicians, and researchers, offers Congress its sincere appreciation for the \$10.4 billion investment in the National Institutes of Health and National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases (NIAMS) as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

The Orthopaedic community requests that Congress continue to build on this investment with *predictable and sustained long-term funding*.

We are working to raise awareness of the chronic, debilitating, and costly musculoskeletal diseases and disorders afflicting our nation and to request continued support for musculoskeletal research.

The Significance of Musculoskeletal Conditions to the Health of the Nation:

Musculoskeletal conditions have an enormous impact on patients and on the American health care system:

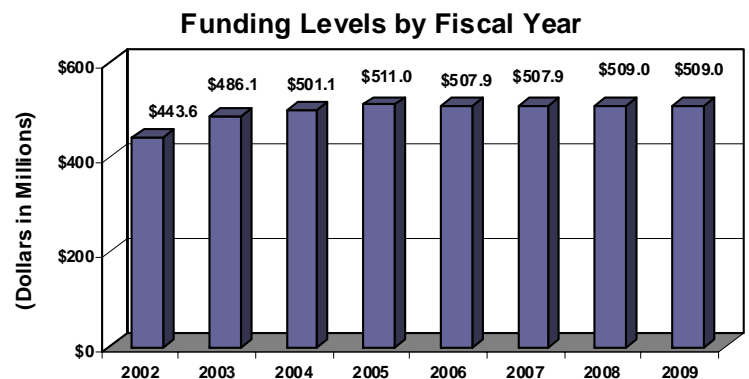
- The annual direct and indirect costs for bone and joint health in the U.S. are \$849 billion
- In recent years musculoskeletal conditions and related healthcare services have accounted for as much as 7.7% of GDP.
- Over the next 10-20 years the aging population will increase significantly, escalating the number of musculoskeletal conditions and cost of healthcare related services.
- More than 30 percent of Americans suffer from a musculoskeletal impairment requiring medical care.

The Need for Increased Musculoskeletal Research Funding

If Americans are to be freed from the personal, societal, and financial burdens of musculoskeletal conditions, improved treatments and eventual cures must be found. These innovations will require an investment in both basic science and clinical research. Despite the chronic nature of musculoskeletal conditions, funding for orthopaedic research has grown slowly. While the budget of NIH was doubled over the course of the last decade, the NIAMS budget did not reflect the same level of support. With the NIH budget increased by \$10.4 billion over fiscal years 2009 and 2010 as a result of the stimulus package, support for the NIAMS budget will almost certainly increase.

The inclusion of NIH funding in the stimulus package demonstrates the great economic benefits of biomedical research as well as the importance of improvements in human health in the United States, which are founded on science and clinical research.

National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases



Presidential Proclamation Recognizes "Bone and Joint Decade"

The growing significance of musculoskeletal conditions has been recognized throughout the nation and the world. On March 26, 2002, President Bush declared 2002-2011 as the National Bone and Joint Decade. This step was part of a global effort to raise awareness of the suffering and cost to society associated with musculoskeletal conditions and to encourage research throughout the world. All 50 states also have issued proclamations to support this decade's focus on musculoskeletal conditions. Worldwide, the United Nations, the World Health Organization, the Vatican, 60 countries, and 750 patient and physician health care organizations support this campaign.