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### House, Senate Economic Stimulus Bills Adds Funds for Biomedical Research

The economic stimulus bill is now law and provides NIH with \$10.4 billion. All funds are intended to be spent through September 2010. \$8.2 billion supports scientific research with \$800 million to the Office of the Director and \$7.4 billion transferred to ICs and the Common Fund. \$1 billion allocated to NCRR to support extramural construction and \$300 million for Shared Instrumentation and other capital equipment. An additional \$500 million is for NIH buildings and facilities. \$400 million is for Comparative Effectiveness Research. Stimulus funds will help support different mechanisms, including R01s for two years as well as provide supplements to current grants. New Challenge Grants, aimed to address research problems that can be addressed in two years, will provide \$500k per year. NIH plans to fund a total of \$100-\$200 million in Challenge grants if the scientific demand warrants that support. View NIH statement at <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/news.htm#20090226>. NIH hopes to move stimulus funds out to the extramural community in the next 30-60 days.

The Obama Administration released its FY 2010 budget that includes more than \$6 billion for NIH to support cancer research. The full document is available at: <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/usbudget/fy10/pdf/fy10-newera.pdf>. The Department of Health and Human Services section about NIH reads: "...This funding is central to the President's sustained, multi-year plan to double cancer research. These resources will be committed strategically to have the greatest impact on developing innovative diagnostics, treatments and cures for cancer. This initiative will build upon the unprecedented \$10 billion provided in the Recovery Act, which will support new NIH research in 2009 and 2010." The proposed budget is only a blueprint and does not guarantee NIH these funds. It is not clear if these funds are intended solely/largely for NCI or will be more broadly distributed among ICs.

However, the FY'09 bill was finally passed as an omnibus bill by the House and now moves to the Senate for consideration. This bill provides a \$937 million increase for NIH above the FY'08 level.

By most measures, it has been a good couple of weeks regarding NIH's near-term funding outlook. The larger issue remains on how the agency will continue this momentum beyond the stimulus years with sustainable, predictable increases in an increasingly difficult economic climate.

### FDA Appropriations

While the economic stimulus package contained no funds for FDA, the FY'09 omnibus bill provides FDA a \$325 million increase over the FY 08 appropriation (roughly half for food safety). For the first time, FDA will receive \$2 billion in appropriated funds. Senate

action is pending. The FDA will have been provided with \$620 million in new funds over the last 16 months.