

A Broken Pipeline?

Flat Funding Puts a Generation of Science at Risk.

Selected Media Coverage Highlights

March 2008

EDITORIALS

New York Times: [No Way to Run Health Research](#)

March 16, 2008

The National Institutes of Health, the main supporter of biomedical research at universities and medical schools, has an annual budget of more than \$29 billion. That is far above what any other nation spends on such research, and far higher than the budgets of other agencies that support work in other scientific fields.

Boston Globe: [Flat funding hurts researchers](#) by Turl Whiting

March 17, 2008

The careers of young scientists are being stifled by flat funding for biomedical research, Harvard's president and others told a US Senate committee last week.

The Cleveland Plain Dealer: [Letting NIH funding slide is a mistake with deadly consequences](#) by Pamela B. Davis

March 18, 2008

When I began my career in medical research in the mid-1970s, the median life expectancy for a child with cystic fibrosis was 11 years.

Today, it's about 40 years, and climbing.

The Tennessean: [Fund cuts put medical research future in doubt](#) by Jeffrey Balser

March 16, 2008

Drs. Pampee Young and William Lawson are talented, young researchers at Vanderbilt University who study how to repair damaged hearts, block tumor growth and treat scarred lungs.

But patients aren't likely to see the benefits of their discoveries as soon as hoped, because their research — and that of many other young investigators across the nation — has been stymied by a funding debacle, five years in the making, at the National Institutes of Health.

NATIONAL COVERAGE

Associated Press: [Harvard President Urges Research Funds](#) by Andrew Miga

March 12, 2008

Harvard University President Drew Gilpin Faust told a Senate panel Tuesday that five straight years of virtually flat funding for the National Institutes of Health has deterred young researchers at premier academic research institutions and threatened work that could produce lifesaving advances.

Bloomberg News: [Budget Constraints Deter Young Medical Researchers, Report Says](#) by Avram Goldstein

March 11, 2008

Stagnant public funding of U.S. medical research is slowing the fight against diseases and pushing young scientists into other fields, according to medical schools and teaching hospitals.

Marketplace: [No funds for biomedical breakthroughs](#) interview by Scott Jagow

March 11, 2008

Scott Jagow: The National Institute of Health is dependent on federal money. But for the last five years, the level of that funding has been flat.

HealthDay Wire Service: [Health Highlights: Stagnant Funding Threatens U.S. Health Research: Report](#)

March 11, 2008

If the budget of the U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH) remains stagnant, the country could lose a generation of young researchers and their potential discoveries, which would pose a threat to the future of Americans' health, warns a report released Tuesday by seven leading academic research institutions.

REGIONAL COVERAGE

Baltimore Sun: [Researchers urge more U.S. funds; Static funding puts biomedical work at risk, UM officials tell Mikulski](#) by Chris Emery

March 19, 2008

The University of Maryland yesterday joined a growing chorus of research institutions warning lawmakers that static federal funding for science has slowed biomedical research and threatens the careers of young scientists.

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel: [Funding gap stalls research](#) by Audrey Hoffer

March 15, 2008

Several years of flat funding from the National Institutes of Health for medical research has created a logjam of research projects that are forced to chase a decreasing number of grant awards, said Robert Golden, dean of the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Medicine and Public Health

Boston Globe: [Harvard president urges more money for research](#)

March 11, 2008

Harvard University President Drew Gilpin Faust says the government needs to give more money to the [National Institutes of Health](#) to make sure research that could lead to disease cures or prevention stays on track.

Columbus Dispatch: [OSU scientist to testify about need for funding](#)

March 11, 2008

An OSU Medical Center researcher has found that a protein is either gone or severely reduced in the hearts of patients with heart failure.

The News & Observer: [Duke, other colleges lobby for more NIH funding](#) by Tim Simmons

March 11, 2008

Leaders from Duke University joined colleagues from several other research schools this morning to protest plans for a sixth consecutive year without significant increases in federal funding for biomedical research.

Boston Globe: [Flat funding stifles young scientists, Harvard president tells Congress](#) by Elizabeth Cooney

March 11, 2008

Young scientists' careers are being stifled by flat funding for biomedical research, Harvard's president told a US Senate committee this morning.

Tennessean: [VU Joins Medical Schools in Effort to Seek Boost for Research Funding](#) by Bill Theobald

March 12, 2008

For Dr. Pampee Young, 39, it took years of school, lab work and funding applications before the Vanderbilt University assistant professor could set off on her own as a medical researcher studying the use of bone marrow stem cells to repair the heart and learn about tumors.

Providence Journal: [The Search for Funding](#) by Benjamin N. Gedan

March 12, 2008

Tricia R. Serio netted a coveted Research Project grant from the National Institutes of Health in 2006, helping her build a laboratory at Brown University to study the causes of mad cow disease and similar illnesses.

Boston Globe: [Funding freeze chills research careers, too](#) by Billy Baker

March 10, 2008

In her laboratory, Anne Giersch has a freezer filled with the inner ears of 782 mice. Locked inside that freezer could be important information about the genetics behind hearing loss. But locked is the key word. Giersch, an assistant professor at Harvard University, has twice been denied the funding to probe further.

UNIVERSITY PUBLICATIONS

Harvard University Gazette: [President testifies for increase in NIH funding; New report warns that bright young researchers are increasingly frustrated by decreasing funding](#) by B.D. Colen

March 13, 2008

With the careers of a generation of young researchers threatened by five years of flat National Institutes of Health (NIH) funding, Harvard President Drew Faust and leaders of six other major research institutions were in Washington Tuesday (March 11) calling on Congress to repair the "Broken Pipeline" through which breakthroughs in the biomedical sciences should be flowing.

Brown Daily Herald: [U. makes its case on young faculty's need for NIH funds](#) by Michael Skocpol

March 12, 2008

Stagnant funding for the National Institutes of Health may be taking a toll on young researchers and threatening the United States' long-term status as the world's leader in biomedical advancement, according to a glossy report released Tuesday by Brown and six other research institutions.

UCLA Newsroom: [Stagnant funding of NIH is shackling young research scientists; Report says lack of support threatens medical advances, nation's health](#) by Roxanne Moster

March 11, 2008

Flat funding of the National Institutes of Health over the last five years is deterring promising young investigators at UCLA and other major research institutions across the country and threatening the future of Americans' health, according to a new report.

The Harvard Crimson: [Faust To Testify Before Congress; Testimony seeks to highlight funding drought for junior biomedical researchers](#)

Duke Today: [NIH's Budget Flatlines: Agency's no-growth budget means young researchers struggle to launch careers](#) by Michelle Gailium

March 11, 2008

Duke Medicine officials Tuesday joined leaders from six other major academic medical centers in warning that six years of essentially flat National Institutes of Health budgets are putting at risk the careers of a generation of young biomedical researchers.

Harvard Crimson: [Faust Talks to U.S. Senate](#) by Clifford Marks and Nathan Strauss

March 11, 2008

University President Drew G. Faust spoke in favor of increasing federal funding for biomedical research before a U.S. Senate committee yesterday.

Faust's testimony capped a Harvard-led effort to reverse a recent real-dollar decline in research grants from the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

Harvard Crimson: [University Leaders Challenge NIH Funding Draught](#) by June Q. Wu

March 11, 2008

Leaving their soil microbes and frozen mice ears behind for a day, a dozen Harvard scientists headed for Washington D.C. yesterday to lobby Congress on the behalf of biomedical researchers across the nation.

TRADE COVERAGE

Chronicle of Higher Education: [New Program Aims \\$300-Million at Young Biomedical Researchers](#) by Hurley Goodall

March 21, 2008

Medical scientists just starting at universities have been, more and more often, left empty-handed when the federal government awards grants.

Science Magazine: [BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH: \\$300 Million in Private Money for New Investigators](#) by Jocelyn Kaiser

March 14, 2008

The Howard Hughes Medical Institute announced this week that it will spend \$300 million over 6 years to support researchers it considers promising but who are struggling to obtain their first independent federal research grant.

Inside Higher Ed: [Clarion Call for More NIH Funding](#) by Andy Guess

In recent years, many university presidents or scientific societies have called for more federal support for research.

On Tuesday, however, [in announcing a new report on the "broken pipeline" for young researchers](#), a particularly high-powered coterie of presidents and professors argued forcefully for a significant increase in funding for the National Institutes of Health.

Modern Healthcare: [Report sees research funding as inadequate](#) by Jennifer Lubell (*subscription required*)

March 11, 2008

Stagnant funding of the National Institutes of Health is deterring young researchers and could threaten advances in science, according to a report released by several research institutions.

Science Daily: [US Stands To Lose A Generation Of Young Researchers](#)

March 11, 2008

Five consecutive years of flat funding the budget of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) is deterring promising young researchers and threatening the future of Americans' health, a group of seven preeminent academic research institutions have warned. In a new report released here, the group of concerned institutions (six research universities and a major teaching hospital) described the toll that cumulative stagnant NIH funding is taking on the American medical research enterprise.

Congressional Quarterly: [Flat Funding of NIH Jeopardizing Medical Innovation, Experts Say](#) by Sara Lubbes (*subscription required*)

March 11, 2008

Leading science academics warned Congress on Tuesday that a lack of new funding for the National Institutes of Health is pushing young researchers away from science and endangering the future of America's search for medical innovations and cures.

Testifying before the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, experts from leading universities outlined the results of a study released Tuesday co-authored by seven science research institutions, including Harvard and Duke Universities and Partners Healthcare.

The Journal of Life Sciences: [Lost Generation](#)

March 21, 2008

The fact that the budget of the National Institutes of Health has remained stagnant for several years threatens to drive young researchers into other fields, according to a dire warning issued by a group of leading research universities.

BLOGS

Drug Monkey: [The Broken Pipeline:](#)

A group of research institutes have apparently banded together to discuss the dismal prospects of younger and transitioning research scientists, producing a [slick overview document](#) hosted at [brokenpipeline.org](#). Participating institutions include Harvard, Brown, UCLA, Vanderbilt, Duke Medicine, Partner's Healthcare and Ohio State University Medical Center.

Walter Jessen: [Flat Funding of Biomedical Research: The Threat to America's Health:](#)

According to a report released earlier this week, five years of consecutive flat or below-inflation funding of the budget of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) is discourage promising young researchers and endangering the future of America's health.

Political Animal: [THE BROKEN PIPELINE....](#)

THE BROKEN PIPELINE....Back in the late 90s Bill Clinton spearheaded an effort to double NIH spending on healthcare research. After his first year in office, George Bush put a stop to this, first flattening the NIH budget and then decreasing it. The problem? All that extra Clinton-era funding was in the form of multi-year grants, and when the budget flatlined those grants still had to be funded.