

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 16, 2014

Director Gary H. Gibbons, M.D.
NHLBI Office of the Director
National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute
Building 31, Room 5A52
31 Center Drive MSC 2486
Bethesda MD 20892

Dear Dr. Gibbons,

We write to you to express our concerns over a recently released Request for Information (RFI) issued by the National Heart, Lung & Blood Institute (NHLBI), notice number NOT-HL-14-203, regarding federal asthma guidelines. With millions of Americans suffering from asthma every day, this matter deserves ample time for the public and our constituents to consider and prepare thoughtful comments for the Institute's consideration. The current six (6) day period does not do this, however. We ask that the Institute give the public at least sixty (60) to ninety (90) days to evaluate and respond to this important RFI.

Families, physicians, and state and local governments rely on the Institute's asthma guidelines when making critical public health decisions. It is vitally important that we get this guidance right and that the Institute's work reflects the most recent and accurate information available. This extremely short window for the public to weigh in with the Institute simply does not allow for the collection and preparation of all the necessary and useful scientific evidence.

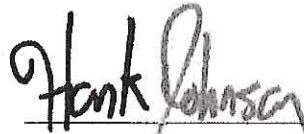
We ask that you extend the comment period in order to gather the best information in the interest of public health. The American people deserve nothing less. We will continue to monitor this process with great interest as the Institute works to update these important guidelines.

cc: Virginia Taggart, MPH, National Heart, Lung & Blood Institute

Sincerely,

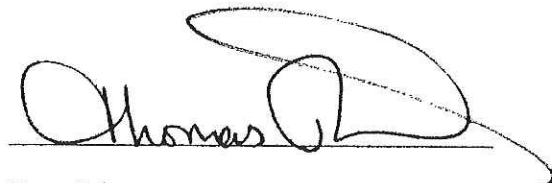


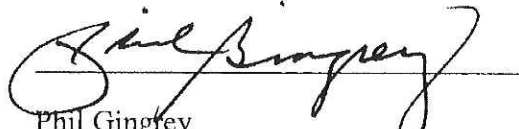
Tom Graves




Hank Johnson


Lynn Westmoreland

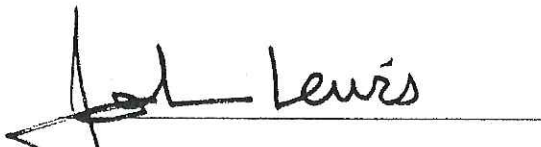

Tom Price


Phil Gingrey


Jack Kingston


Paul Brown


Rob Woodall


John Lewis


Austin Scott



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

National Institutes of Health
National Heart, Lung, and
Blood Institute
Bethesda, Maryland 20892

January 27, 2014

The Honorable Tom Price
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Price:

We appreciate your support and acknowledgement of the importance of the National Asthma Education and Prevention Program's (NAEPP) asthma clinical practice guidelines. They are indeed a valuable tool for making important public health decisions. As the science advances, it is critical that they be updated accordingly. To determine whether an update to the guidelines is appropriate at this time, the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI), which coordinates the NAEPP, released the Request for Information (RFI) NOT-HL-14-203.

As an initial step in the process, the RFI solicits high-level, potential topics that might warrant a systematic scientific literature review. We are also discussing this issue with the scientific experts who contributed to the current asthma guidelines, as well as all members of the NAEPP Coordinating Committee, which is comprised of over 36 professional societies, lay volunteer organizations, patient groups, and federal agencies. With the assistance of the scientific experts, we will collate and interpret the information received from these different sources and present a report to the NAEPP Coordinating Committee and the NHLBI Advisory Council during their open sessions on the need for an update, priority topics, and recommendations for conducting the systematic scientific literature reviews and guidelines update. We would like to assure you that the scientific literature review itself will not be performed through this RFI, as it will take more time.

If a decision is made to proceed with scientific literature reviews and an update, the final draft of the updated report will be made available for public comment, as the NAEPP has done in the past. We hope that this highlights the methodical, and inclusive, process by which our evidence-based guidelines are developed and reassures you that the RFI is part of the initial information gathering phase. Nonetheless, we understand that allowing more time for the public to respond to this important part of the process could be helpful. We have, therefore, extended the deadline for submitting comments until March 10th, 60 days from the issuance of the RFI, and have published this information in the NIH Guide (<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-HL-14-208.html>) to inform the public of this change. We anticipate that this extension will provide ample time for those interested to provide input to this process. We will also provide this response to the co-signers of your letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary H. Gibbons".

Gary H. Gibbons, M.D.
Director

TOM PRICE, M.D.
6TH DISTRICT, GEORGIA

WASHINGTON, DC OFFICE:
100 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-4501
FAX: (202) 225-4656

DISTRICT OFFICE:
85-C MILL STREET, SUITE 300
ROSWELL, GA 30075
(770) 998-0049
FAX: (770) 565-7570

www.house.gov/tomprice



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
February 3, 2014

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET
VICE CHAIRMAN

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
AND THE WORKFORCE

DEPUTY WHIP

Dr. Harold Varmus
Director
National Cancer Institute
31 Center Drive
Bg 31 Rm 11a48
Bethesda, MD 20814

Dear Dr. Varmus:

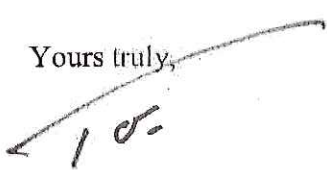
Please accept this letter in support of Georgia Regents University to receive funding under the NCI Community Oncology Research Program (NCORP) to support its Minority-Based Cancer Clinical Oncology Program (MB-CCOP).

In the battle against cancer, the State of Georgia ranks higher in occurrence and mortality rates than the national average. Georgia Regents University is home to the one the premier research facilities in Georgia, and is paving the way for successful studies that would not only benefit our state, but our entire nation. In fact, the Georgia Regents University Cancer Center, which is working toward NCI designation, includes a 167,000-square-foot research building and a clinical facility.

It is my sincere hope that this is just the beginning of a promising future of cancer research in Georgia. There is hardly a family out there that has not experienced tragedy when it comes to cancer, and that is why I ask favourable consideration for this application submitted by Georgia Regents University.

If you have any questions, please contact David Leblang in my office at 770-998-0049.

Yours truly,


Tom Price, M.D.
Member of Congress

TP/dl

ress of the United States
ouse of Representatives
ashington, DC 20515-1006

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

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Thomas R. [Signature] M.C.

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FEB 25 2014

National Institutes of Health
Bethesda, Maryland 20892

The Honorable Tom Price, M.D.
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Price:

Thank you for your recent letter in support of the NCI Community Oncology Research Program (NCORP) Minority/Underserved Community Site grant application submitted by the Georgia Regents University (GRU) to the National Cancer Institute (NCI) for consideration of funding. As the Chief of the Community Oncology and Prevention Trials Research Group within NCI's Division of Cancer Prevention, which administers the NCORP initiative, I am pleased to respond to your letter.

The purpose of NCORP is to bring cancer clinical trials, as well as cancer care delivery research, to individuals in their own communities, thereby generating a broadly applicable evidence base that contributes to improved patient outcomes and a reduction in cancer disparities. NCORP aims to increase involvement of oncologists and other health professionals in NCI-approved clinical trials as full research partners; improve the quality of cancer care in local communities by disseminating research findings; boost participation of minority and underserved populations in cancer clinical trials; and address determinants of disparities that disproportionately affect outcomes for racial/ethnic and underserved populations.

All grant applications submitted to the NIH receive full and fair consideration. Each application is evaluated for scientific and technical merit through a dual peer-review system, which is the keystone for ensuring that the best science is supported.

The GRU application, along with other NCORP grant applications, is scheduled to be reviewed in the spring of 2014. The review results for the application will be made available to the applicant through eRA Commons, a virtual meeting place where NIH extramural grantee organizations and grantees can access and share administrative information related to research grants. Final funding decisions are expected in the summer of 2014.

Thank you for your support of cancer research. Please feel free to contact me or members of my staff should you have any questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,

Wortia McCaskill-Stevens, M.D., M.S.
Chief, Community Oncology and Prevention Trials
Research Group
Division of Cancer Prevention
National Cancer Institute

Bordine, Roger (NIH/OD) [E]

From: Street, Amanda <Amanda.Street@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, May 28, 2014 12:06 PM
To: Culhane, Ned (NIH/OD) [E]
Subject: Re: Meeting with NIH Director Francis Collins

Wonderful! Thanks so much!

Amanda Street
Congressman Tom Price, MD
100 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
202-225-4501

From: <Culhane>, "Ned [E] (NIH/OD)" <culhane@mail.nih.gov>
Date: Wednesday, May 28, 2014 12:01 PM
To: Rep Tom Price <Amanda.Street@mail.house.gov>
Subject: RE: Meeting with NIH Director Francis Collins

2 pm tomorrow is great. I will call the number below and send you a meeting invite shortly.

From: Street, Amanda [<mailto:Amanda.Street@mail.house.gov>]
Sent: Wednesday, May 28, 2014 12:00 PM
To: Culhane, Ned (NIH/OD) [E]
Subject: Re: Meeting with NIH Director Francis Collins

Hi Ned,

Thank you for following up. This afternoon is already full, but I can do tomorrow at 2pm. Can we plan on that? Would you mind calling at the number below?

Many thanks,

Amanda Street
Congressman Tom Price, MD
100 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
202-225-4501

From: <Culhane>, "Ned [E] (NIH/OD)" <culhane@mail.nih.gov>
Date: Wednesday, May 28, 2014 11:57 AM
To: Rep Tom Price <Amanda.Street@mail.house.gov>
Subject: RE: Meeting with NIH Director Francis Collins

Hi Amanda,

I am free for a quick call this afternoon before 3 pm and between 4 and 5 pm as well as tomorrow between 2 and 5 pm. When would be best for you?

I just wanted to touch base to introduce myself and see if you had any questions about NIH.

Look forward to speaking with you.

Ned

From: Street, Amanda [<mailto:Amanda.Street@mail.house.gov>]
Sent: Friday, May 23, 2014 4:08 PM
To: Culhane, Ned (NIH/OD) [E]
Subject: Re: Meeting with NIH Director Francis Collins

She blocked it for 30 min

Amanda Street
Representative Tom Price, MD
100 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
202-225-4501

On May 23, 2014, at 3:59 PM, "Culhane, Ned (NIH/OD) [E]" <culhanee@mail.nih.gov> wrote:

Thanks! Before I forget, do you know how much time Cheyenne blocked for this meeting?

From: Street, Amanda [<mailto:Amanda.Street@mail.house.gov>]
Sent: Friday, May 23, 2014 3:59 PM
To: Culhane, Ned (NIH/OD) [E]
Subject: Re: Meeting with NIH Director Francis Collins

Sounds great! Talk to you then.

Hope you have a great weekend as well!

Amanda Street
Representative Tom Price, MD
100 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
202-225-4501

On May 23, 2014, at 3:57 PM, "Culhane, Ned (NIH/OD) [E]" <culhanee@mail.nih.gov> wrote:

Hi Amanda,

Let's touch base early next week. I am up in Bethesda and do not have any plans to be on the hill so I was thinking a phone call might be best. I'll reach out on Tuesday and hope you have a great holiday weekend!

Ned

From: Street, Amanda [<mailto:Amanda.Street@mail.house.gov>]
Sent: Friday, May 23, 2014 2:05 PM
To: Culhane, Ned (NIH/OD) [E]; Foster, Cheyenne
Subject: Re: Meeting with NIH Director Francis Collins

Hi Ned,

I'm happy to meet beforehand. Is there a day/time that works best on your end? My schedule is pretty flexible.

Amanda Street
Congressman Tom Price, MD
100 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
202-225-4501

From: <Culhane>, "Ned [E] (NIH/OD)" <culhanee@mail.nih.gov>
Date: Friday, May 23, 2014 1:49 PM
To: "Foster, Cheyenne" <Cheyenne.Foster@mail.house.gov>
Cc: Rep Tom Price <Amanda.Street@mail.house.gov>
Subject: RE: Meeting with NIH Director Francis Collins

Wonderful, Cheyenne. Could you please confirm the length of the meeting? I assume 30 minutes but wanted to check with you.

Amanda, might we be able to connect at some point before the 10th? I would welcome the opportunity to say hello and answer any questions that you may have about NIH.

From: Foster, Cheyenne [<mailto:Cheyenne.Foster@mail.house.gov>]
Sent: Friday, May 23, 2014 1:40 PM
To: Culhane, Ned (NIH/OD) [E]
Cc: Street, Amanda
Subject: RE: Meeting with NIH Director Francis Collins

Yes! June 10th at 3pm works best for us as well. I'll mark that on our calendar. Our office is in 100 Cannon and I've looped in Amanda Street, she'll be joining Congressman Price in the meeting. Thank you for your patience!

Cheyenne

From: Culhane, Ned (NIH/OD) [E] [<mailto:culhanee@mail.nih.gov>]
Sent: Friday, May 23, 2014 12:48 PM
To: Foster, Cheyenne
Subject: RE: Meeting with NIH Director Francis Collins

Hello Cheyenne,

I just wanted to check to see if Congressman Price is available at one of the times listed below. Please let me know at your convenience and I hope you have a great Memorial Day weekend!

Ned

From: Culhane, Ned (NIH/OD) [E]
Sent: Monday, May 19, 2014 12:09 PM

To: 'Foster, Cheyenne'
Subject: RE: Meeting with NIH Director Francis Collins

Hello Cheyenne,

Here are several times that work for Dr. Collins:

- June 10, 3PM or 4PM (best option)
- June 11, 9:00AM
- June 23, 8:30AM

Might one of these work for Congressman Price?

Thanks,
Ned

From: Culhane, Ned (NIH/OD) [E]
Sent: Monday, May 19, 2014 8:35 AM
To: 'Foster, Cheyenne'
Subject: RE: Meeting with NIH Director Francis Collins

Hello Cheyenne,

Thanks so much for your note. I am checking with Dr. Collins' assistant to identify a few times that would work for him and I'll share those as soon as I have them.

Hope you have a great start to the week!

Ned

From: Foster, Cheyenne [<mailto:Cheyenne.Foster@mail.house.gov>]
Sent: Thursday, May 15, 2014 1:37 PM
To: Culhane, Ned (NIH/OD) [E]
Subject: RE: Meeting with NIH Director Francis Collins

Hi Ned,

I'd be more than happy to check Congressman Price's schedule. What dates/times do you have in mind?

Cheyenne

From: Puchalla (Creitz), Charlene
Sent: Wednesday, May 14, 2014 3:28 PM
To: Culhane, Ned (NIH/OD) [E]
Cc: Foster, Cheyenne
Subject: RE: Meeting with NIH Director Francis Collins

Hi Ned,

Yes, I was lucky enough to attend the Summit, and I learned so much!

I have copied Cheyenne, our DC scheduler, on this email, so she can help facilitate a conversation with Congressman Price.

Thanks again,
Charlene

From: Culhane, Ned (NIH/OD) [E] [<mailto:culhane@mail.nih.gov>]
Sent: Wednesday, May 14, 2014 2:10 PM
To: Puchalla (Creitz), Charlene
Subject: RE: Meeting with NIH Director Francis Collins

Hi Charlene,

I really appreciate the quick response! I didn't have a chance to attend the summit myself but from what my colleagues reported it was a great event.

We're located in Bethesda, MD so a meeting with Congressman Price in his DC office would be best.

Ned

From: Puchalla (Creitz), Charlene [<mailto:Charlene.Puchalla@mail.house.gov>]
Sent: Wednesday, May 14, 2014 12:58 PM
To: Culhane, Ned (NIH/OD) [E]
Subject: RE: Meeting with NIH Director Francis Collins

Hi Ned,

Thank you very much for reaching out to us. The Rx Summit was a great event!

Would Dr. Collins like to meet with Congressman Price in our Roswell office or in the DC office?

Thanks again,
Charlene

From: Culhane, Ned (NIH/OD) [E] [<mailto:culhane@mail.nih.gov>]
Sent: Tuesday, May 13, 2014 4:17 PM
To: Puchalla (Creitz), Charlene
Cc: Culhane, Ned (NIH/OD) [E]
Subject: Meeting with NIH Director Francis Collins

Hello Charlene,

My name is Ned Culhane and I work in the legislative office at the National Institutes of Health (NIH). NIH Director Francis Collins had the opportunity to speak with Representative Tom Price at last month's Rx Summit in Atlanta. Dr. Collins would appreciate the chance to speak with Representative Price in greater detail and I wanted to reach out to see we could arrange such a meeting.

I would be happy to speak with you or someone from Representative Price's office to answer any additional questions.

Thank you for your consideration.

Ned

Ned Culhane

Office of Legislative Policy and Analysis
Office of the Director
National Institutes of Health
Building 1, Room 244
Bethesda, MD 20892

phone: 301.496.3471

e-mail: culhane@mail.nih.gov

[Celebration of Science at NIH](#) | [Impact of NIH Research](#) | [NIH Research Matters](#)

Bordine, Roger (NIH/OD) [E]

From: Culhane, Ned (NIH/OD) [E]
Sent: Tuesday, June 17, 2014 3:36 PM
To: Street, Amanda (Amanda.Street@mail.house.gov)
Cc: Culhane, Ned (NIH/OD) [E]
Subject: Dr. Collins meeting follow-up
Attachments: Dr. Price Meeting Handouts.pdf

Hello Amanda:

Thank you again for your help arranging last week's meeting between Drs. Collins and Price. Dr. Collins appreciated the conversation with Dr. Price and I hope that we may be in touch in the months to come.

In follow-up, I wanted to share the following information with you. I attach a PDF of the three slides that Dr. Collins shared during the meeting. I also share the following links to the two NIH initiatives Dr. Collins mentioned as well as the Reps. Upton and DeGette initiative.

- [Accelerating Medicines Partnership \(AMP\)](#)
- [Brain Research through Advancing Innovative Neurotechnologies \(BRAIN\) Initiative](#)
- [E&C's a Path to 21st Century Cures](#)

Dr. Collins would be delighted to host Dr. Price for a tour of the NIH campus in Bethesda, MD. What is the best way to proceed with scheduling such a visit? Would you like me to reach out to Cheyenne and CC you? Dr. Collins also appreciated your suggestion of a meeting with the members, or potentially staff, of the Doctors Caucus. Were you able to discuss that with Dr. Price?

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me should you or Dr. Price have any questions.

Ned

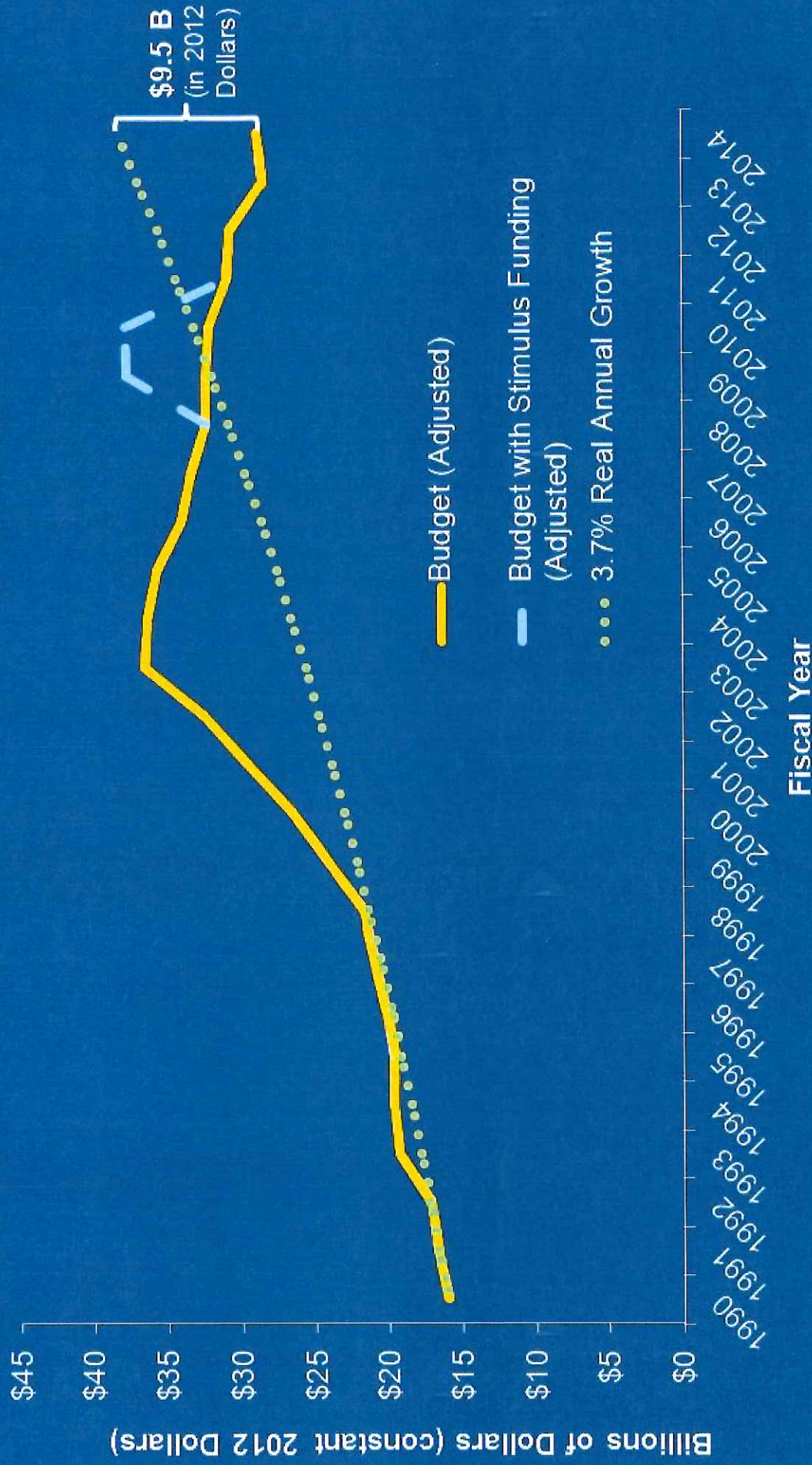
Ned Culhane

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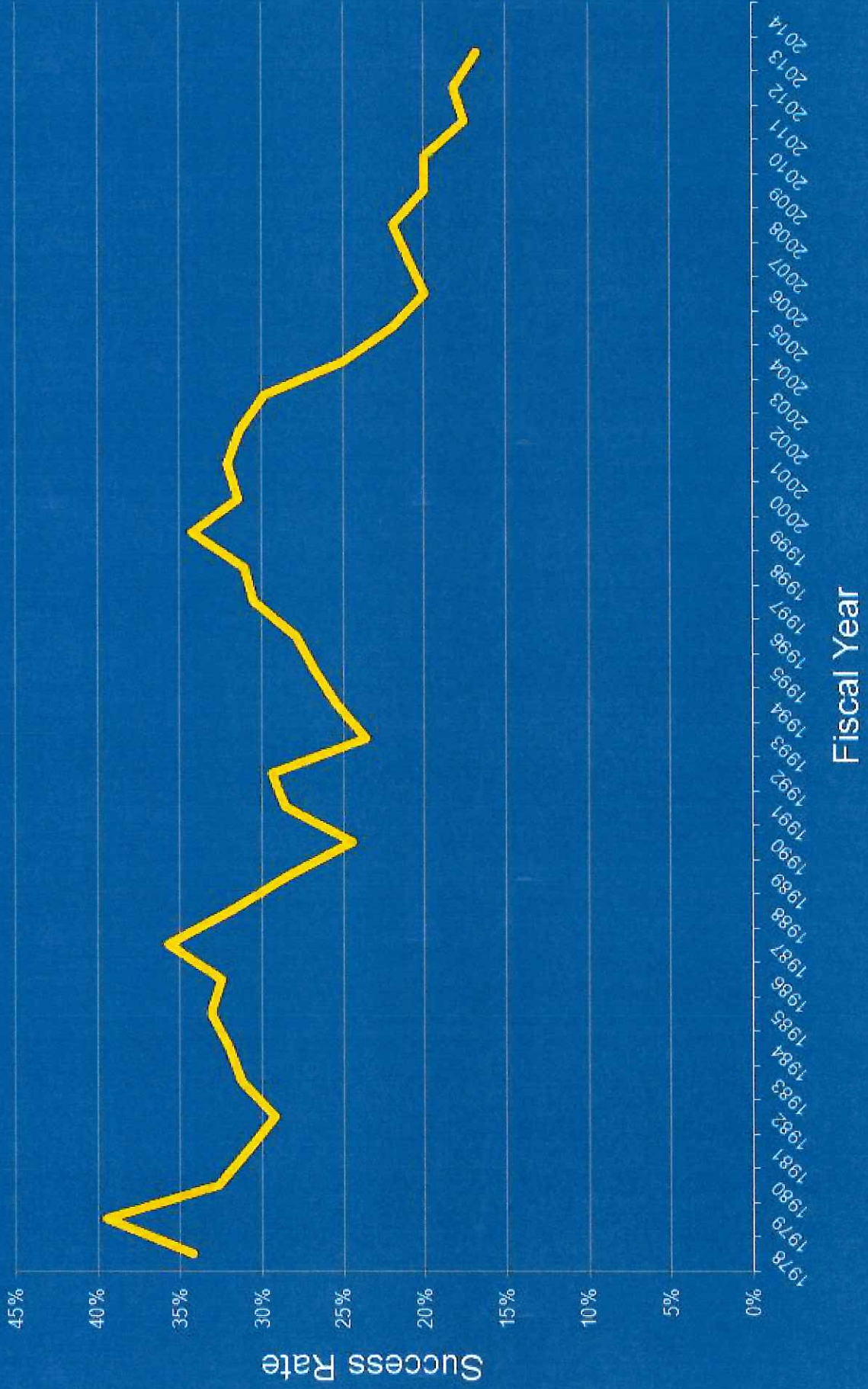
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National Institutes of Health Funding 1990-2014

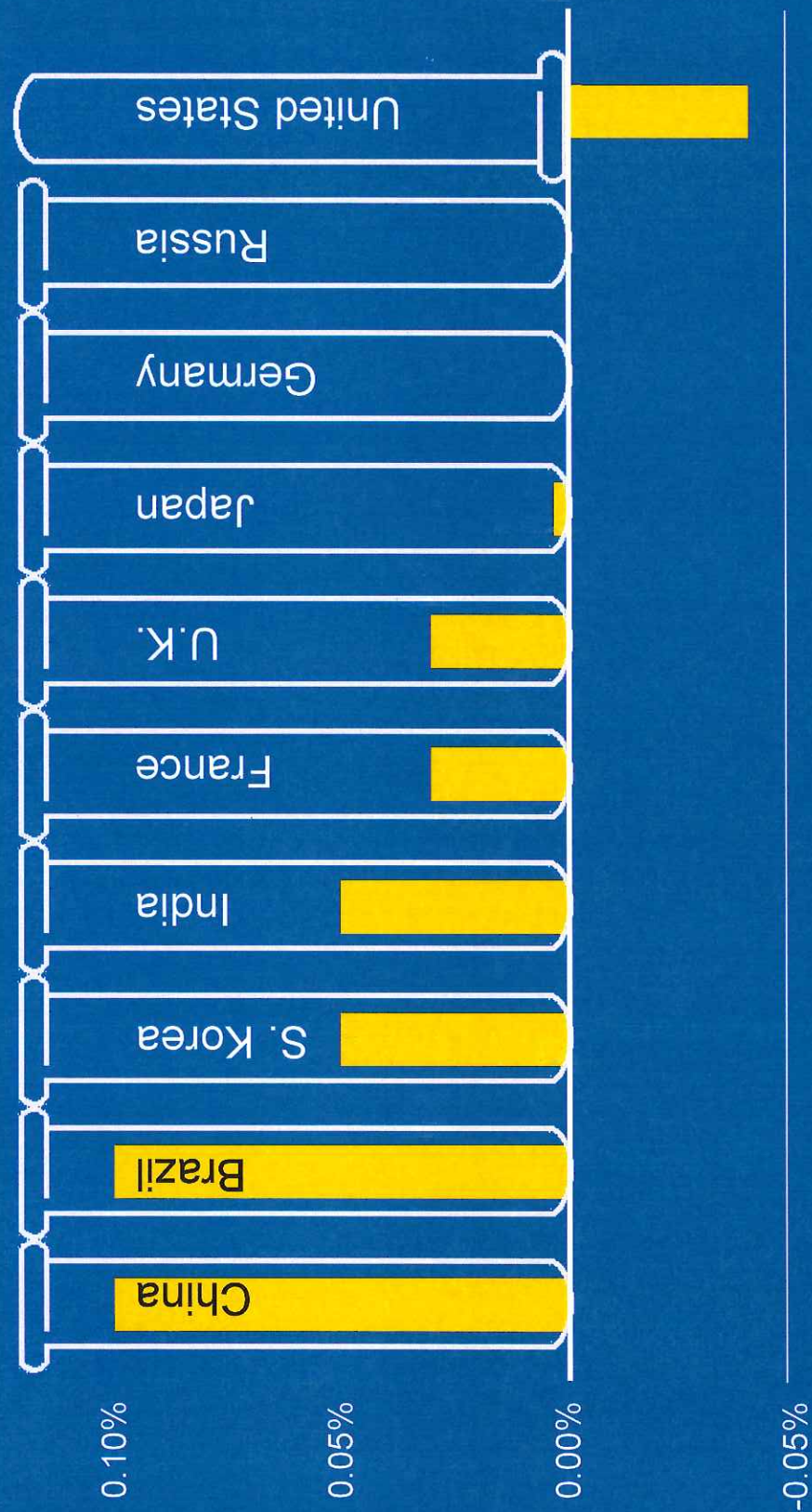


Note: The 3.7% Real Annual Growth is based on average real growth between 1971 and 1997. Dollar values are adjusted to 2012 Dollars using the Biomedical Research and Development Price Index (BRDPI), <http://officeofbudget.od.nih.gov/gb/PriceIndexes.html>.
Source: NIH Office of Extramural Research and Office of Budget source data (March 29, 2014)

Grant Success Rates FY 1978 – 2014



Change in Percentage of GDP Invested in Research (2011 to 2013)



Adapted from: *Nondefense Discretionary Science 2013 Survey*, ASBMB
Source: Batelle, *R&D Magazine*