



**FIGHT**  
4 HEMATOLOGY



## **REQUEST: Recognize the value of biomedical research by providing NIH with at least \$51.303 billion in FY 2026**

### **Impact of NIH Funding**

Biomedical research plays a critical role in stimulating the economy. On average, each dollar of National Institutes of Health (NIH) funding generates more than twice as much in economic output. These benefits are extremely important to many local communities, especially those where universities, research institutes, and medical colleges are major contributors to the economy.<sup>1</sup>

### **NIH Research Advances Patient Care**

The American Society of Hematology (ASH) represents more than 18,000 clinicians and scientists committed to studying and treating the millions of patients living with blood and blood-related diseases, including blood cancers, bleeding and clotting diseases, and hereditary disorders. Major advancements in patient care would not have been possible without Congress' investment in NIH, including these key accomplishments:

- ***Gene therapies for sickle cell disease***

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved the first cell-based gene therapies for the treatment of sickle cell disease (SCD) in patients 12 years and older in December 2023. These advancements hold promise for delivering more targeted and effective treatments not only for SCD, but also for other rare diseases with limited treatment options. The FDA's approval of these groundbreaking therapies was the result of decades of research, including that funded by NIH.

- ***CAR-T therapy for blood cancers***

The approval of chimeric antigen receptor T-cell (CAR-T) therapy by the FDA in August 2017 marked an important shift in treatment for individuals with blood cancers who have exhausted all other options – by harnessing the power of a patient's own immune system to eradicate cancer. The FDA's approval of this breakthrough treatment resulted from more than 10 years of research, supported by funding from NIH's National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) and National Cancer Institute (NCI).

- ***Improved blood clot treatments***

Diseases such as heart attacks and strokes, which arise from clots in our blood vessels, are among the most common causes of death in developed countries. However, advances in therapy have lowered the risk of blood clots in leg veins by more than 70%, with deaths from heart attacks reduced by nearly 50%.

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<sup>1</sup>United for Medical Research. NIH's Role in Sustaining the U.S. Economy. March 2025.  
<https://www.unitedformedicalresearch.org/annual-economic-report/>