



FY 2020 Funding Request for the National Institute of Nursing Research

Supporting Quality Patient Care, Improved Patient Outcomes, and Healthy Communities through Nursing Science

Background: The National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR) is one of 27 Institutes and Centers within the National Institutes of Health (NIH). NINR allocates funds for research that establishes the scientific basis for clinical care and supports critical interdisciplinary scientific training.

The investment that Congress makes to NINR through the NIH addresses some of the most important challenges affecting the health of the American people. The NINR has 4 primary areas of research contribution: 1) eliminating and managing illness-related symptoms experienced by patients, 2) improving end-of-life and palliative care, 3) enhancing patient and family management of chronic health conditions, and 4) maintaining wellness of individuals and communities through health promotion and prevention of illness. Advances in each of these areas through NINR-funded research has major implications for the overall health of society and cost burdens on our Nation's healthcare system. The NINR is a leader within NIH and in health care globally in advancing symptom science and palliative care.

FNINR believes that additional funding for NINR by Congress is an investment in cost-saving strategies that will reduce the financial burden on the health care system, promote individual accountability for care, and ensure quality health care is provided to all citizens. We ask Congress to ensure an allocation of funding to NINR of at least \$182 million.

NINR-funded scientists are at the forefront of research in a number of important areas. Recent examples include: developing methods to detect traumatic brain injury, identifying dietary deficiencies that contribute to poor outcomes for patients with heart failure, discovering specific organisms in the intestine that are associated with pain and other symptoms of irritable bowel disease, determining factors that predict adverse birth outcomes, distinguishing sex-differences in the nature of obstructive sleep apnea, and developing interventions to prevent the spread of infectious disease in inner cities. Nurse scientists are also conducting collaborative research related to cancer, the opioid crisis, and depression, one of our nation's greatest public health problems. Funding will support these and other initiatives advanced by nurse scientists.

Increased funding will help individuals, local communities and our nation by:

- Promoting healthy lifestyles;
- Personalizing health strategies for prevention of disease;
- Managing and eliminating symptoms caused by illness;
- Investing in innovation and healthcare technology;
- Creating jobs within centers of healthcare and innovation; and
- Investing in the next generation of nurse scientists.

Funding nurse scientists generates an excellent return on investment. In order to continue the critical NINR mission of promoting and improving the health of individuals and communities, and ensuring high-quality, cost-effective care for people across the lifespan, FNINR urges Congress to allocate at least \$182 million to NINR for the purpose of tackling, managing and improving the health of our nation.