



Dr. Zerhouni

On March 9, NIH Director Dr. Elias Zerhouni appeared before the House Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Subcommittee, chaired by Cong. Ralph Regula (R-OH). His testimony offered compelling statistics—chronic diseases now account for 70 percent of all deaths and 75 percent of healthcare costs. Placing this challenge in context, he noted that the President’s FY2006 federal budget proposal of \$28.6 billion for the NIH means that “it has \$96 per each American to stem the rising burden of disease, as healthcare costs consume over \$5,500 per-person, per-year.”

NIH Director Zerhouni Testifies Before the House LHHS Appropriations and Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittees

Within this context, Dr. Zerhouni identified how NIH is maximizing return on investment, primarily focusing on intra-Institute efforts that promote information-sharing and collaborative research, including the *NIH Roadmap for Medical Research* and the *NIH Neuroscience Blueprint*. He announced the creation of a new Office of Portfolio Analysis and Strategic Initiatives to better analyze and manage the NIH research portfolio.

On March 17, Dr. Zerhouni also testified before a House Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittee hearing entitled *Setting the Path for Reauthorization: Management at the NIH*. Subcommittee chair Cong. Nathan Deal (R-GA) noted that this was the tenth hearing on the NIH in the last two-plus years and prefaces NIH reauthorization activities in the 109th Congress, which full Committee chair Cong. Joe Barton (R-TX) echoed in announcing the introduction of bipartisan legislation in the coming months.

	FY2003 ACTUAL	FY2004 ACTUAL	FY2005 ACTUAL	FY2006 PROPOSED
NEI	\$632.3 M +9.2%	\$652.7 M +3.3%	\$669 M +2.5%	\$673.5 M +0.7%
NIH	\$27.2 B +14.9%	\$28 B +3.1%	\$28.4 B +2%	\$28.6 B +0.5%

SOURCE: NEI