

PROTECTING HUMAN HEALTH

This budget's investments in biomedical research and disease prevention reinforce the President and Vice President's longstanding commitments to improving health for all Americans. Biomedical research continues to pave the way toward better diagnostics, treatments, and cures. Recent breakthroughs have led to techniques that hold promise for treating Parkinson's disease, diabetes, heart disease, and many other debilitating disorders. As new health risks arise, prevention of disease also requires increased attention. The emergence of infectious disease threats, outbreaks of food-borne illnesses, and possible bioterrorist acts demand preventative efforts to protect our Nation's health. FY 2001 budget highlights include:

- **A \$1 billion increase for biomedical research at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), to nearly \$18.8 billion.** These funds will support merit-based, peer-reviewed research, largely conducted by individual investigators. With the increase requested for FY 2001, NIH plans to focus on the following four themes: exploiting the power of genomics, reinvigorating clinical research, harnessing the expertise of allied scientific and engineering disciplines that contribute to biomedical research, and reducing disparities in health.
- **A \$68 million increase for food safety.** Contaminated food kills up to 5,000 Americans and causes 76 million illnesses each year. This budget includes \$422 million for the President's food safety initiative, a \$68 million increase over FY 2000 enacted. An additional \$40 million for the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), and \$28 million for the Department of Agriculture (USDA), will be used to increase inspections; enhance the national network of laboratories capable of DNA analysis of pathogens for rapid response to outbreaks (PulseNet); and expand research, risk assessment and education activities.
- **A \$48 million increase to combat emerging infectious diseases.** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) will use an additional \$25 million to establish a consistent national electronic disease surveillance system to improve the ability to detect outbreaks of infectious diseases, upgrade epidemiology and laboratory capacity at state and local health departments, provide education and training about the appropriate use of antibiotics, and address the hepatitis C epidemic and the need for pandemic influenza preparedness. Increases of \$8 million for NIH-sponsored research on emerging pathogens, and \$15 million for Department of Defense (DoD) programs to protect our troops from these diseases will build on the strong base of programs at DoD, HHS, USAID, USDA, and VA.
- **A \$150 million dollar increase for disease prevention and treatment in developing nations.** An additional \$100 million are invested in AIDS prevention, care, public health infrastructure, and education in the African and Asian countries that have been hit hardest by the disease. The budget also contributes \$50 million to the vaccine purchase fund of the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization, and sharply increases NIH funding for vaccine research. In addition, the President has called for a tax credit for sales of vaccines for malaria, tuberculosis, and AIDS to accelerate vaccine development, and has asked the World Bank and other multilateral development banks to dedicate an additional \$400 million to \$900 million of low-interest loans each year to expand immunization, prevent and treat common diseases, and develop sound delivery systems for basic health services.