

Research Assessment #1

Date: September 1, 2021

Subject: Biomedical Research Funding

MLA Citation:

Endocrine Society. "Biomedical Research Funding." Endocrine Society, Endocrine Society, 15 July 2021, www.endocrine.org/advocacy/position-statements/biomedical-research-funding.

Assessment:

I have always had a love for science as it has always been one of my favorite subjects in school. I participated as much as I could in those classes and was excited about class every day. I knew early on that pursuing a career related to science was definitely something for my future. This along with the fact that I am passionate about helping others lead me to explore options in the medical field, and I did a lot of research into many different career options and ultimately I found that the profession of a Biomedical Researcher was something I would enjoy pursuing. I had a strong liking for Biology as I took Biology freshman year and AP Biology sophomore year and during my free time, the thought of being able to dive deeper into this subject through the ISM program led me to do my own research of the job description and basic knowledge of what Biomedical Researchers jobs encompass.

Since I already had a sufficient amount of knowledge regarding the job description of my career of interest, I decided to find out more about the problems or the first stages of what needs to be done to begin researching. I learned that to move on to the process of being able to

conduct tests for the research that's been done, a researcher needs to acquire funding, and due to inflation, the number of projects having to be dropped because of insufficient funding rising (Endocrine Society). Biomedical research has had immense positive impacts on people by advancing health and improving the lives of the American people. I see how biomedical research has changed lives as everything from just vaccines and antibiotics need intensive prior research and funding just to develop them.

In the United States, the main and at times the only source of funding for biomedical research is the National Institutes of Health or also known as the NIH (Endocrine Society). This surprised me as I know how important this research is and I thought there would be many more companies willing to fund this research. NIH funding has not yet caught up to 2008 levels when adjusted for inflation, as the chances of finding life-changing breakthroughs and treatments have been severely limited (Endocrine Society). This would be one of my biggest concerns if I was to pursue this topic as it would be incredibly difficult for me if I wasn't able to secure the fundings necessary to continue with my research. I previously never realized how expensive it is to conduct biological research as the "NIH annually invests more than \$40 billion in medical research" (Endocrine Society). It was eye opening to me to learn that scientists are often forced to find other careers or may have to move to other countries to continue their research if their funding isn't secured (Endocrine Society).

I was additionally surprised to learn that Congress has regularly increased the budgets of the agencies that fund biomedical research like doubling the NIH budget, because of how insufficient the budget still is to fund the highly necessary research (Endocrine Society). Although this has helped the number of awards funded, it still hasn't revived the decrease in

percent from previous years. Despite my overall knowledge of biomedical research, I failed to consider how the number of grants impacts not only the scientists, but additionally the economy by reducing healthcare costs. Many new diseases, viruses, and chronic illnesses are emerging and with the assistance of biomedical research, preventative treatments can be developed to save the country billions of dollars (Endocrine Society). I additionally learned how research funds also have a significant impact on local economies by supporting the development of new, high-paying jobs because the income in local and regional economies would be lost without government research support (Endocrine Society).

I have now realized that many medical advances will either never happen or will be realized and drive public health and economic activity outside of the United States if these experts are declined to access funding and are not part of the United State's workforce. I wholeheartedly stand by the fact that policymakers must continue to guarantee that money is available to enable new and current researchers to pursue their goals to not only strengthen the citizen's wellbeing, but also our economy. With help from my mentor, I hope to be able to learn specific things that biomedical researchers must go through in their careers that I may have overlooked, or haven't heard of yet.