



Infectious Diseases Society of America Funding Update—April 2013



Recent Infectious Outbreaks Highlight Ongoing Funding Needs

Recent events, including this season's influenza outbreak, continuing emergence of deadly multi-drug resistant pathogens, the fungal meningitis outbreak caused by contaminated steroid treatments, and the historic nationwide outbreak of pertussis (whooping cough) have highlighted the unpredictability of infectious disease (ID) threats and the need for the U.S. to be prepared to respond. The nation also must continue to address ongoing ID needs, such as development of new antimicrobials, vaccines and diagnostics; antimicrobial resistance; and prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS, hepatitis and vaccine-preventable illnesses. U.S. agencies, including the National Institutes of Health (NIH), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), and United States Agency for International Development (USAID), need robust funding to address these priorities.

Review our Statements on the President's Fiscal Year (FY) 2014 Budget

- [Infectious Diseases Society of America \(IDSA\)](#)
- [HIV Medicine Association \(HIVMA\)](#)
- [IDSA/HIVMA Center for Global Health Policy](#)

Infectious Diseases in the News

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IDSA on Funding

- [FY2014 Appropriations Testimony](#)
- [Fund Preparedness Programs](#)
- [Protect Medical Research Funding](#)
- [Preserve Public Health Funding](#)
- [Maintain Graduate Medical Education Funding](#)
- [Support Hepatitis Funding](#)
- [IDSA and HIVMA Funding Recommendations to the Office of Management and Budget](#)

Additional IDSA Documents

- [New Antibiotic Approval Pathway Urgently Needed](#)
- [Despite Superbug Crisis, Progress in Antibiotic Development 'Alarmingly Elusive'](#)
- [New Center for Global Health Policy Fact Sheet: HIV and TB Coinfection](#)

Also Visit:

www.AntibioticsNow.org

Public Health and Preparedness Funding

[CDC: Intense Surveillance Needed on H7N9 Virus](#)

U.S. must closely track the H7N9 avian influenza virus that is currently sickening and killing humans in China to determine potential impact on U.S. public health and measures that must be taken, including vaccine development, in preparation for potential pandemic.

[Flu Prevention Saves Lives, Money \(ABC News\)](#)

Influenza prevention and treatment save both money and lives.

[Risk to all Ages: 100 Kids Die of Flu Each Year \(Fox News\)](#)

More than 100 children die each year from the flu, and although the flu vaccine has been plentiful this season and is the best protection available, only 40 percent of children receive flu shots.

[Responding to the Outbreak of Invasive Fungal Infections: The Value of Public Health to Americans \(Journal of the American Medical Association\)](#)

The outbreak of fungal meningitis in contaminated steroids underscores the critical detection and response roles of state health departments, working with local clinical and public health personnel.

[Public's Health at Risk from Sequester, Advocates Warn \(The Hill\)](#)

The American Public Health Association warns that sequestration will mean 424,000 fewer HIV tests, 7,400 fewer patients having access to the AIDS Drug Assistant Program, reduced food inspections, decreased public health emergency preparedness and response capabilities, and negatively impact many other critical public health programs.

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Biomedical Research Funding

[The Sequester is Going to Devastate U.S. Science Research for Decades \(The Atlantic\)](#)

Sequestration is shrinking the number of grants available for new scientists, causing fewer young people to pursue research careers and ultimately cutting the number of new scientific, potentially life-saving discoveries in the U.S.

[Sequester Cuts to Science Slow Biomedical Research \(PBS News Hour\)](#)

Fewer dollars will mean fewer research projects, layoffs among scientists and cuts to equipment, all of which could influence scientific and medical advances.

Bad Bugs
Need Drugs



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Roberta DeBiasi, chief of the division of pediatric infectious diseases at Children's National Medical Center, participated in the [Rally for Medical Research](#) and noted that basic science research led to greater understanding of the SARS virus and helped health officials contain its thread.

[Sequestration will take Big Bite from Medical Research Funding \(L.A. Times\)](#)

Sequestration may cause many scientists to leave the U.S., taking with them not only promising discoveries, but also the economic growth spurred by investment in biomedical research.

Click [here](#) for more stories on sequestration's impact on biomedical research funding.

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Antimicrobial Resistant Infections

[Drug Pipeline for Worst Superbugs on Life Support \(Reuters\)](#)

"We're on the precipice of returning to the dark days before antibiotics enabled safer surgery, chemotherapy and the care of premature infants," said Dr. Helen Boucher, an infectious diseases expert at Tufts Medical Center in Boston and a member of IDSA's board, whose report was published online in *Clinical Infectious Diseases*.

[CDC Vital Signs: Stop Infections from Lethal CRE Germs Now](#)

CDC sounded the alarm about the increasing spread of a highly resistant bacteria that kills 50% of those it infects.

[Antibiotic-Resistant 'Superbugs' Alarm Health Care Industry \(Washington Times\)](#)

New deadly "nightmare bacteria" coupled with pharmaceutical company withdrawal from antibiotic research underscore need for federal investment to combat resistance and develop new antibiotics.

[Analysis: Humans Losing War Against Antibiotic-Resistant 'Superbugs' \(US News Weekly\)](#)

Infectious diseases experts press the U.S. Government for greater investment in antibiotic development, infection control and antibiotic stewardship. In a [New England Journal of Medicine commentary](#), ID experts say "if we're to develop countermeasures that have lasting effects, new ideas that complement traditional approaches will be needed."

[Antibiotic Resistance a "Catastrophic Threat"—UK Medical Chief \(Reuters\)](#)

Britain's top medical officer called for global response to fight antibiotic resistance and research and develop new drugs to treat deadly infections; warned that patients having minor surgery risk dying from infections that can no longer be treated.

[Tamiflu Resistance May be Rising \(MedPage Today\)](#)

Increasing resistance to influenza treatment emphasizes the need for more research to develop new, more effective antivirals.

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Vaccine-Preventable Infections On the Rise

[Why Rubella's Scary Comeback Should Scare Vaccine Deniers \(The Daily Beast blog\)](#)

First reported cases of rubella in newborns since 2008 underscore the need for robust federal funding of vaccine programs. In newborns, rubella can cause severe abnormalities and even death.

[CDC: Whooping Cough Epidemic Worst in 50 Years \(NBC News\)](#)

CDC urges up-to-date vaccination to provide best protection against pertussis, or whooping cough, a disease that can be fatal, particularly in infants.

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Food Safety

[Study Finds Clumsy Government Response to Salmonella Outbreak \(Food Safety News\)](#)

Study urges strengthening of surveillance systems to speed outbreak response and reduce the number of individuals sickened in an outbreak of foodborne illness.

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