DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Good morning, Chairman Alexander, Ranking Member Murray, and distinguished Members of the Committee. I am Francis S. Collins, M.D., Ph.D., and I have served as the Director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) since 2009. It is an honor to appear before you today.

Before I discuss diverse investments in biomedical research and some of the exciting scientific opportunities on the horizon, I want to thank this Committee for your sustained commitment to NIH to ensure that our nation remains the global leader in biomedical research and advances in human health.

fundamental knowledge about the nature and behavior of living systems and to apply that knowledge to enhance human health, lengthen life, and reduce illness and disability. As some of you have witnessed first-hand on your visits to NIH, our leadership and employees carry out our mission with passion and commitment. This extends equally to the hundreds of thousands of individuals whose research and training we support, located in every State of this great country, and where 81 percent of our budget is distributed.

One of my personal priorities is developing the next generation of talented biomedical

early

grow, and retain new- and early-career investigators across these critical career stages. The Office of the Director is tracking progress across NIH in order to assess if these strategies are working. NIH remains committed to the development, support, and retention of our next generation of investigators.

NIH is

Indeed, figuring out what health approaches work best for each individual and why is the goal of another important NIH Initiative: the Precision Medicine Initiative (PMI). Precision medicine is a revolutionary approach for disease prevention and treatment that takes into account individual differences in lifestyle, environment, and biology. While some applications of precision medicine have found their way into practice over the years, this individualized approach is simply not available for most diseases. The *All of Us* Research Program, a key component of PMI, is building a national resource one of the world's largest, most diverse biomedical data sets in history to accelerate health research and medical breakthroughs, enabling individualized prevention, treatment, and care. *All of Us* will enroll one million or more U.S. volunteers from all life stages, health statuses, races/ethnicities, and geographic regions to ref

improve health outcomes, fuel the development of new treatments for disease, and catalyze a new era of evidence-based and more precise preventive care and medical treatment.

Across the nation, NIH has engaged 10 large health provider organizations, six community health centers, and the Department of Veterans Affairs to be our partners in this ambitious study. The program has funded over 30 community partner organizations to motivate diverse communities to join and remain in the program, with a focus on those traditionally underrepresented in biomedical research.

We began a robust, year-long beta testing phase in May 2017, during which each of our partners were able to test their systems and processes to ensure a good experience for participants and ensure that the security of the data systems was of the highest possible order. I am happy to tell you that *All of Us* launched nationally on May 6, 2018 with events across the

August 15, 2018, almost 100,000

individuals have started the enrollment process, and over 50,000 have completed all the steps in the protocol. Of those almost 50 percent are from racial and ethnic groups who have been historically underrepresented in biomedical research.

Following the national launch, we continue to improve and adjust the program based on participant feedback and emerging scientific opportunities and technological advances. We also are currently building the *All of Us* data resource, which is designed to be used by a broad range of researchers to study complex risk factors, support ancillary studies and clinical trials, and link to other large data sets. *All of Us* will be critical to realizing the promise of personalized medicine.

We have never witnessed a time of greater promise for advances ie.TBT1 0 0 1 428.11 460.15 Tmþqh8

promise