Every day, research funded by the NIH has a direct impact on patient lives—from enabling people to make better-informed decisions about their health, to enhancing the quality of life and safety of New, Rapids—or today’s—tomorrow’s—are the reason behind the research.

Why Invest in NIH?

By ensuring steady and sustainable annual increases to the budget for the National Institutes of Health, Congress can save and improve lives, advance innovation and fuel the economy. Here are some other reasons why Congress must act to #keepNIHstrong.

### James Lair

When James Lair was born six weeks early weighing 8 pounds, everything seemed normal. But within a few days, the little girl’s development began to fall off the beaten path. For her parents, those next six weeks were the most frightening of their lives. What would unfold for her was a journey of medical marvels that would change their understanding of her. Despite this, Dr. Google wasn’t there to say “Congratulate! You’re pregnant with the next generation.”

James was diagnosed with a disease called 

12-cranial-synact, a relatively new condition discovered in 2014. The only known cure is currently undergoing clinical trials. James’s story highlights the need for medical research to continue and develop.

### Chris Borland

Chris Borland retired from the San Francisco 49ers in 2014 after just one season in the NFL citing concerns about chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE) and the impact of football on the health of his brain.

In February 2021, the NFL and National Institutes of Health (NIH) announced a study to investigate the link between repetitive head trauma by demonstrating that repetitive “mild” concussions can cause serious long-term brain damage.

### Cindi Dodd

Cindi Dodd was up early one morning in 2017 when she heard a strange noise. She rushed to the hospital where doctors found a blood clot in the blood vessel that goes from her heart to her brain. That was just the beginning of her journey.

Cindi and her family were told to get the treatment she needed within six hours or face life-threatening damage. That study was a 38-center clinical trial sponsored by the NIH.

### Jenelle Stephenson

In December 2017, Jenelle Stephenson, 27 at the time, began a harrowing journey to find a treatment for sickle cell disease (SCD). Jenelle was one of the many who suffer from SCD, a disease that causes red blood cells to change shape and clog blood vessels, leading to pain, organ damage, and early death.

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### A’ndrea Elyse Messer

A’ndrea Elyse Messer, PhD, was one of eight participants in a clinical study of human gene editing to treat a genetic disease called beta-thalassemia minor.

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She may have saved my life. At the very least, her work has likely spared me much of the suffering we see today among former NFL players.