The National Institutes of Health sits at the center of the biomedical innovation ecosystem — funding, facilitating and conducting research through its 27 institutes and centers, as well as training the next generation of biomedical innovators. It is the power behind the global leadership of America’s life sciences industry.

The life sciences industry funds and conducts most of the applied research and development in the U.S., often building upon knowledge and discoveries from federally funded basic research.

NIH

- Funds the work of 300,000 researchers at more than 2,500 universities and organizations in all 50 states and D.C.
- Varies from discovery to development and deployment.
- The research conducted at academic institutions provides a foundation for private sector development of new drugs, treatments and technologies that improve health.

Industry funds 66% of U.S. biomedical R&D

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Startups and spin-outs

- University research often leads to discoveries with commercial potential and the spinout of startup companies, which help fuel the biomedical innovation pipeline.

Scientific tools and technologies companies

- Providers of research tools and technologies develop critical equipment used for NIH-funded research, as well as private drug and diagnostic development.

Bio, pharma and device companies

- The life sciences industry funds and conducts most of the applied research and development in the U.S., often building upon knowledge and discoveries from federally funded basic research.

Patient and disease advocacy organizations

- These organizations help identify research needs, collaborate with NIH and other parts of the innovation ecosystem, sponsor research themselves and provide public education.

Academic research institutions

- The research conducted at academic institutions provides a foundation for private sector development of new drugs, treatments and technologies that improve health.

46% of all basic research in the U.S. is conducted at academic research institutions, with most of that research funded by the federal government.

How does the NIH fit into the biomedical innovation ecosystem?