

## FOSTERING THE CANCER RESEARCH WORKFORCE OF TOMORROW



**Francis S. Collins, MD, Ph.D.**

*Director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH)*

*“NIH remains committed to the development, support, and retention of our next generation of investigators.”*

*(testimony, May 17, 2018)*

The Next Generation Researchers Initiative (NGRI) aims to bolster support for early-stage and mid-career investigators by addressing the unique challenges they face as they begin and sustain independent research careers. Through the NGRI, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) is making additional funds available to do the following:

**Extend the payline** for early stage investigators to 25 percent;

**Extend the payline** for mid-career investigators who are principal investigators and about to lose all NIH funding; and,

**Identify “rising stars”** who are seeking their second research project grant (RPG) but just missed the payline.

Included in the NIH FY 2019 budget request is a dedicated fund of \$100 million for the NGRI in the Office of the Director to incentivize additional Institute and Center support for early-career investigators. The goal is to ramp up over several years to \$1.1 billion annually across the NIH Institutes and Centers. The success of this initiative depends heavily on continued robust funding increases for NIH over the next several years.

*American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) Cancer Progress Report 2018*