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# LUNG DISEASE RESEARCH FUNDING fact sheet



MARCH 2013

## REQUEST

The American Thoracic Society urges Congress to provide \$32 billion for the National Institutes of Health for fiscal year 2014.

## IMPACT OF BUDGET SEQUESTRATION

Sequestration will cut \$1.6 billion from the NIH budget in FY2013, resulting in the elimination of at least 1,000 research grant opportunities. Continuing NIH grant awards will receive only 90 percent of their approved funding level for FY2013.

## BACKGROUND

The NIH is the world's leader in groundbreaking biomedical health research for the prevention, treatment and cure of disease, including conditions like lung cancer, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and asthma. Eighty-five percent of the NIH budget is invested in U.S. communities through universities, medical schools, hospitals and innovative small businesses.

## NIH SCIENCE MUST CONTINUE TO ADVANCE, NOT STAGNATE

Stagnant funding and biomedical research inflation have eroded NIH's purchasing power. The number of grants supported by the NIH is now at the lowest level since 2001. The success rate for NIH grants has plummeted to 13 percent, which means close to 90 percent of meritorious research is not being funded. The ATS is also concerned that there is a lack of opportunities for young investigators who represent the future of scientific innovation.

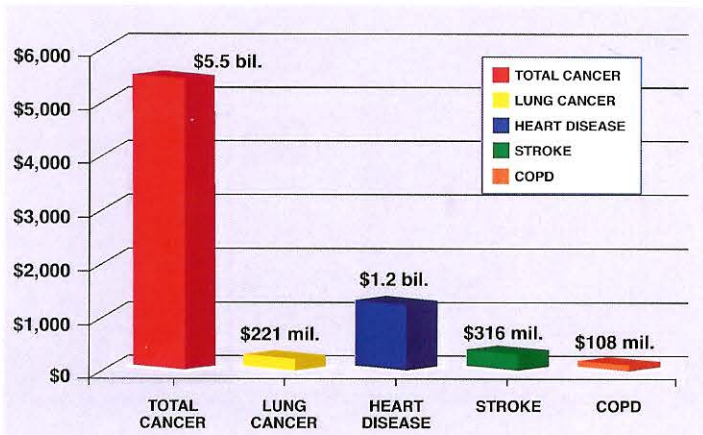
## LUNG DISEASE – THE THIRD LEADING CAUSE OF DEATH IN THE U.S.

Respiratory disease in America is on the rise. According to CDC, lung disease, specifically COPD, is now the third leading cause of death in the U.S. The COPD death rate has doubled within the last 30 years and is still increasing, while the rates for the other top causes of death (heart disease, cancer and stroke) have decreased by over 50 percent. The number of people with asthma in the U.S. has surged over 150 percent since 1980. In 2010, the estimated economic cost of lung disease in the U.S. was \$85 billion, including \$66 billion in direct health expenditures and \$19 billion in indirect morbidity and mortality costs.

Despite the rising lung disease burden, lung disease research is underfunded. In 2012, lung disease research represented just 23.2 percent of the National Heart Lung and Blood Institute's (NHLBI) budget. Although COPD is now the third leading cause of death in the U.S., research funding for the disease is a small fraction of the money that is invested for the other leading causes of death, heart disease, cancer and stroke.

**FY2012 NIH Funding by Disease of the Four Leading Causes of Death (in millions)**

Source: [http://report.nih.gov/categorical\\_spending.aspx](http://report.nih.gov/categorical_spending.aspx)



**Decline in Success Rates of NHLBI R01 Grants Between FY2002 and FY2012**

