



The Voice of Medical Education

Testimony of:

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Associated Medical Schools of New York (AMSNY)

New York State Academic Dental Centers (NYSADC)

At a Joint Budget Hearing of

The New York State Assembly/Senate Committees on Economic Development

&

The New York State Senate Committee on Finance &

The New York State Assembly Committee on Ways and Means

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Legislative Office Building

Hearing Room B

Thank you, chairs Krueger, Pretlow, Baskin, Stirpe and other distinguished members of the Legislature for the opportunity to provide testimony about economic development issues that are of particular importance to New York State's medical and dental schools.

My name is Jonathan Teyan, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Associated Medical Schools of New York (AMSNY) and the New York State Academic Dental Centers (NYSADC).

AMSNY is the consortium of the academic medical centers in New York and we strive to be the voice of medical education in the state. To that end, we advocate for policies that help advance the education and training of physicians, support biomedical research and provide New Yorkers with access to the very best clinical care.

NYSADC is the consortium of the academic dental centers in New York. We work on behalf the dental schools to address issues important to dental education, including providing advanced training opportunities in the treatment of people with special needs and improving access to oral healthcare for all New Yorkers.

I would first like to thank the Legislature for its strong support of the New York Fund for Innovation in Research and Scientific Talent (NYFIRST) Program, which has supported the recruitment and retention of leaders in biomedical research, resulting in more than \$100 million in additional research funding brought into New York State.

Background

New York State is home to 17 academic medical centers – more than any other state. Annually, we have more than 11,000 students enrolled in our medical schools and train approximately 12% of the nation's residents at our teaching hospitals. In addition to education and clinical care, our medical schools are global leaders in biomedical research, conducting the foundational research that leads to new treatments and cures. This research also drives innovation in the state's life sciences sector through collaborations and new startup ventures.

Empire Biomedical Research Institute (EBRI)

AMSNY's proposal for a state-funded Empire Biomedical Research Institute, developed in partnership with a coalition of more than 40 organizations representing New York's scientific, higher education, healthcare delivery, business and economic development communities, would advance the state's global competitiveness for science and scientists. The rapidly changing landscape created by evolving federal policies and funding for science creates new opportunities for states like New York that possess the scientific infrastructure and talent and are willing to invest boldly in the future of biomedical research and the life sciences.

New York has been a leading recipient of federal research funding for decades, enabling the growth of a vibrant life sciences sector, which combines our robust academic infrastructure, a talented scientific workforce, an expanding biopharmaceutical sector and a world-class healthcare delivery system. Ongoing changes in federal policies and funding for scientific research, however, challenge the sustained growth of New York's life sciences sector. In particular, we risk losing ground to other states and countries that are expanding their commitments in recognition of the importance of biomedical research to their economies and to the health of their communities. Conversely, there is opportunity for states like New York that possess the infrastructure and workforce and are willing to invest boldly in science.

Bioscience is an important economic driver, with nearly \$6 billion in research expenditures annually, employing 120,000 New Yorkers and training a scientific workforce that drives new discoveries and treatments that improve the health and lives of all New Yorkers. The State's targeted investments in recent years have supported the expansion of our life science sector – particularly our startup economy. This is the moment, however, for a comprehensive, visionary approach to science that supports the breadth of our research-to-patient pipeline. As we have seen in New York and other states, these types of investments are a proven way to advance new discoveries, attract talent and companies and improve health.

Investments in biomedical research yield economic benefits. New York State is the second leading recipient of funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), with nearly \$3.6 billion awarded to New York scientists in 2024 – primarily, but not exclusively at our academic institutions – and directly supporting 35,000 jobs. Federal funding, along with state and local investments, have translated to direct results in the private sector, with nearly 6,000 life sciences companies – a 20% growth over the past five years – attracting \$3.6 billion in venture capital investment and employing more than 160,000 New Yorkers.¹

Investments in biomedical research drive employment and help New York create the highly skilled workforce of the future. New York's system of developing scientists, who drive advancements in academia and the private sector, has depended on federal funding and federal training programs that supported access to careers in science, particularly for people who have overcome adversity on the path to science. New York's leadership in scientific workforce development, however, is challenged by steep declines in funding opportunities and the elimination of NIH and National Science Foundation (NSF) training programs. In the long term, this disinvestment in science and scientists will discourage the brightest minds from pursuing careers in science and result in a loss of talent from New York to other US states and global competitors.

Investments in biomedical research improve the lives and health outcomes of New Yorkers and our communities. Publicly funded research has contributed to the development of 99% of the FDA-approved therapies from 2010-2019. Scientists across New York have been working on new cures and treatments that will be available here first through the more than 4,400 clinical trials underway in the state. This research-to-patient pipeline ensures that all New Yorkers – including populations of greatest need – have access to the highest quality healthcare through new technologies, treatment and cures and helps drive down the costs of delivering quality care.

Despite the clear economic and health benefits, New York State's commitments to biomedical research have significantly lagged our closest US competitors in nominal and per capita investments.

¹ Biotechnology Innovation Organization. [The U.S. Bioscience Economy: Driving Economic Growth and Opportunity in States and Regions](#). 2024

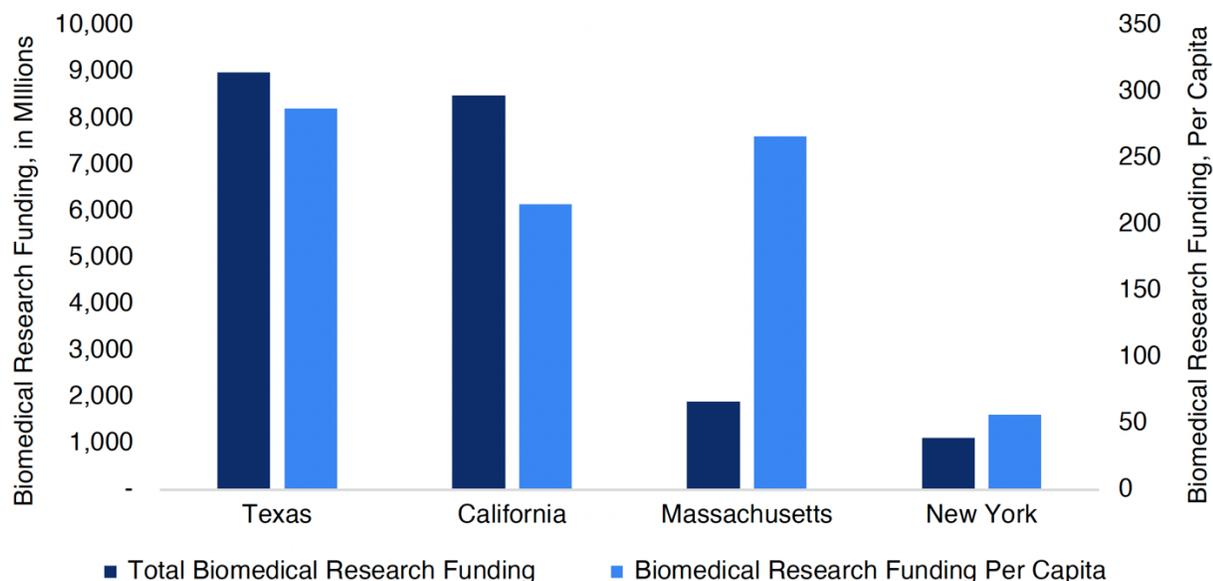


Figure 1. Major State Biomedical Research Funding Initiatives, 2005 – Present.

In addition to the \$8.5 billion already committed to the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine, California’s legislature is advancing a new \$23 billion initiative intended to mirror the breadth of research supported by NIH². Building on its \$6 billion Cancer Prevention Research Institute, Texas just launched a new \$3 billion Dementia Prevention Research Institute.³ As a complement to the \$1.5 billion Massachusetts Life Sciences Center, Governor Healey is advancing a new \$400 million commitment to biomedical research through the Discovery, Research and Innovation for a Vibrant Economy (DRIVE) Initiative.⁴

At the same time, global competition has spiked. Europe and China have been aggressively recruiting U.S. scientists for most of the past year, and Canada recently announced a \$1.2 billion effort to recruit scientists from the U.S.⁵

Additional AMSNY Priorities for SFY2026-2027

New York Fund for Innovation in Research and Scientific Talent (NYFIRST)

AMSNY requests a reappropriation of \$10 million from SFY2024-2025 and a new \$10 million allocation for SFY2026-2027. NYFIRST improves New York State’s competitive position in recruiting and retaining world-class scientific talent— an essential component of growing the state’s bioscience sector. Since 2018, with \$11.7 million invested by the State, NYFIRST generated \$107.4 million in matching funds through institutional investments. This represents a nearly 10:1 return on every State dollar invested in NYFIRST. In the first four years of this program, the State has enabled New York research institutions to retain or recruit nine leading scientists, creating 156 new jobs with an average salary of \$77,802.

² <https://subscriber.politicopro.com/article/2026/01/ballot-trail-23b-bond-for-scientific-research-00734655?site=pro&prod=alert&prodname=alertmail&linktype=headline&source=email>

³ <https://www.tmc.edu/ecosystem/dprit/>

⁴ <https://www.mass.gov/the-drive-initiative>

⁵ <https://www.science.org/content/article/canada-s-new-budget-aims-lure-u-s-researchers-relocate>

Return on Investment

NYFIRST leverages additional investments from academic institutions through a required 2:1 match. Since 2018, with \$11.7 million invested by the State, NYFIRST generated \$107.4 million in matching funds through institutional investments. This represents a nearly 10:1 return on every State dollar invested in NYFIRST.

In the first four years of this program, the State has enabled New York research institutions to retain or recruit nine leading scientists, creating 156 new jobs with an average salary of \$77,802.

Employment

NYFIRST is a proven driver of life sciences employment. These are high-wage jobs (averaging \$77,802 per year, exceeding the statewide average private sector wage) at institutions with deep historical roots in New York State. Given their complex infrastructures and partnerships with other healthcare entities and local communities, academic medical centers are stable employers over the long term. They will continue to be an important component of the State's economy for the foreseeable future, meaning that, in contrast to other economic development initiatives, there is little risk that State investments in NYFIRST will flow out-of-state and fail to provide in-state jobs. In the first four years of this program, the State has enabled New York research institutions to retain or recruit nine leading scientists, creating 156 new jobs and counting.

Competition for Scientific Talent

As mentioned, the competition for top scientists among states and institutions is fierce. Many places have launched multibillion dollar campaigns to poach researchers and bring their federal funding to a new institution. Given our wealth of talent, New York has been a prime target for these recruitments for some time.

As an example, the Cancer Prevention Research Initiative of Texas (CPRIT) launched in 2007 with an initial \$3 billion investment over 10 years. Building on the first decade of success, Texas voters authorized a second \$3 billion investment in CPRIT in November 2019. CPRIT is now the second largest public funder of cancer research in the U.S., following only the National Cancer Institute. Over the last 15 years, CPRIT has awarded \$854 million to Texas research institutions specifically to recruit out-of-state scientists through their CPRIT Scholar and Recruitment of Rising Stars (RRS) programs which have successfully recruited many scientists from New York State research institutions. One of those recruits, the immunotherapy pioneer James Allison, was lured from Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center to MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston with a \$10 million package. Dr. Allison's research in immunotherapy has proven remarkably effective in fighting advanced cancers and has led to the development of an entirely new class of checkpoint inhibitor drugs. Dr. Allison subsequently went on to win the prestigious Lasker Prize followed by a Nobel Prize in 2018. Most recently in 2024, the CPRIT Scholars program recruited Xufeng Chen, PhD, from New York to continue his work on uncovering therapeutic strategies for enhancing immunosurveillance and circumventing drug resistance, particularly in patients with leukemia.

California, recognizing the economic benefits of investing in bioscience, launched its \$3 billion California Institute for Regenerative Medicine (CIRM), which supports stem cell science, in 2004. An additional \$5.5 billion was approved by voters through a referendum in November 2020. At the same time, New York State terminated the Empire State Stem Cell (NYSTEM) program, which funded many early-career scientists, creating the conditions for a brain drain in stem cell research from New York.

CIRM is now focusing its funding on translational research – research that advances basic science from “bench to bedside” and towards the marketplace. California has long supported its life sciences industry, providing seed and other funding to startup companies launching from its academic institutions. As a result, California has the most robust life sciences sector in the U.S., with more than 14,000 life sciences companies employing nearly 335,000 people in 2021 and \$79 billion in venture capital (VC) investment from 2018-21 (compared to 5,314 life sciences companies employing 110,000 people in New York State in 2021 and \$18.4 billion in VC investment from 2018-21).

Many other states have followed similar paths: Massachusetts created its \$1.5 billion Massachusetts Life Sciences Center to drive basic research and grow its bioscience sector; Connecticut invested \$2.5 billion to expand its research ecosystem. Even states with relatively few major academic research institutions have made outsized investments that, on a per capita basis, are competitive with Texas, California, and Massachusetts.

New York must prioritize state investment in this area to ensure that we can retain our top scientists and attract new recruits.

NYFIRST Cycles 1-4

Employment

- Net new jobs (direct and indirect) created by NYFIRST recruitment in year 1: **101**
- Net new jobs (direct and indirect) created by NYFIRST recruitment in year 2: **68**
- Net new jobs (direct and indirect) created by NYFIRST recruitment in year 3: **14**
- Net new jobs (direct and indirect) created by NYFIRST recruitment in years 1-4: **156**
- Average salary of all jobs created by NYFIRST recruitment in years 1-3: **\$77,802**

Institutional Matching Funds

- Total institutional matching funds in years 1-4: **An estimated \$107.4 million**

Return on Investment

Since 2018, with \$11.7 million invested by the State, NYFIRST has generated \$107.4 million in matching funds through institutional investments. This represents a nearly 10:1 return on every State dollar invested in NYFIRST.

Closing

In 2022, AMSNY published a comprehensive economic impact report that demonstrates how essential our 17 academic medical centers – including their research enterprises – are to our state and regional economies. I would encourage members of the Legislature and others to review this report at your convenience:

<https://amsny.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/AMSNY-Economic-and-Functional-Impacts.Final-Report-1.pdf>

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today and for your continued support of academic medicine.

Respectfully submitted,
Jonathan Teyan, President and Chief Executive Officer

AMSNY Member Institutions

Albany Medical College
Albert Einstein College of Medicine
Columbia University Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons
CUNY School of Medicine
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai
Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, the University at Buffalo
NYU Langone Health
New York Institute of Technology College of Osteopathic Medicine
New York Medical College
Renaissance School of Medicine at Stony Brook University
School of Medicine and Dentistry at the University of Rochester Medical Center
SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University
Norton College of Medicine at SUNY Upstate Medical University
Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine
Weill Cornell Medicine
Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra/Northwell

NYSADC Member Institutions

Columbia University College of Dental Medicine
New York University College of Dentistry
Stony Brook University School of Dental Medicine
Touro College of Dental Medicine
University at Buffalo School of Dental Medicine
University of Rochester School of Medicine & Dentistry

Appendix A: Empire Biomedical Research Proposal

Empire Biomedical Research Institute (EBRI)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Biomedical research is a critical driver of New York State's economy, employing a globally competitive scientific workforce that generates the discoveries and innovations that are foundational to our life sciences economy. Basic science research furthers our understanding of how to prevent, treat and diagnose disease, and clinical and translational research advance our healthcare. In the next decade, this research is poised to bring to market and deliver to patients transformative AI diagnostics, new drugs for dementia and neurodegenerative diseases, cancers, and childhood diseases, and bioengineered devices and therapies to treat diabetes, heart disease, and immune disorders – diseases that affect New York State residents, families and communities.

Research is a key driver of downstream healthcare cost savings; development of less expensive but more effective interventions to more accurately prevent, treat, and eliminate disease can dramatically reduce healthcare spending while improving health outcomes for all.

Public investments in research deliver economic returns.

- New York State is the second leading recipient of National Institutes of Health (NIH) funding, totaling nearly \$3.6 billion in 2024 – 70% of which was awarded to scientists at our medical schools. Every dollar invested in research by the NIH produces an estimated \$2.50 in economic activity.

New York State's academic institutions and companies house a world-class scientific workforce.

- 35,000 New Yorkers work in federally funded biomedical research. At our medical schools alone, more than 17,000 people are directly engaged in research, generating \$8.3 billion in economic activity. Another 120,000 people are employed in our bioscience companies.

Publicly funded research improves people's health and lives.

- An estimated 99% of new therapies from 2010 to 2019 originated from publicly funded research, including treatments for cancers, cures for sickle cell and other genetic diseases, and treatments for common conditions such as osteoporosis, diabetes and heart disease.

Sustained federal investment in research has positioned the United States as the unrivaled global leader in science and has enabled New York State to develop critical infrastructure and grow our scientific workforce. **Our leadership, however, is jeopardized by the significant shifts in federal priorities that have created uncertainty for science and scientists and by increased competition from states like California, Massachusetts, and Texas that are investing billions in biomedical research.**

The Empire Biomedical Research Institute (EBRI), a bold new initiative proposed here, would empower New York State to capitalize on opportunities created by the shifting landscape of public research funding, expand our leadership, attract sizeable investment, grow our life sciences sector, and ensure our health systems' ability to deliver the very best care to all New Yorkers. **EBRI would launch a New York State funding mechanism to advance health and economic resilience by funding investigator-driven, peer-reviewed scientific research in key areas of public health significance, infrastructure development, and workforce training.**

EBRI would provide merit-based funding through targeted programs:

- Individual biomedical research projects in areas of medical need that affect New Yorkers across the state, including those in rural and urban areas.
- Public health innovations that speed discovery and care to New Yorkers and their communities.
- Technology development centers to ensure that New York remains a catalyst for innovation.
- Training programs to build a competitive scientific, clinical and technical workforce.
- Collaborations and partnerships across New York institutions to support the expansion of research programs with the ultimate goal of improved community health.

In the short term, EBRI would help New York State:

- Stabilize the biomedical research enterprise at our academic institutions.
- Capitalize on opportunities to recruit and retain scientists, laboratories, companies, and private investment in New York State.

In the long term, EBRI would:

- Galvanize New York State's global leadership in biomedicine.
- Strengthen collaborations and partnerships among our statewide network of academic research institutions and our life sciences sector.
- Enhance the development of our scientific workforce while accelerating the growth of New York's innovation economy.
- Ensure access to the highest quality healthcare through new technologies, treatments and cures for all New Yorkers, including populations of greatest need.

THE CHANGING LANDSCAPE OF PUBLICLY FUNDED RESEARCH

For the past 80 years, sustained federal investment in research has positioned the United States as the unequivocal global leader in scientific discovery and innovation. The National Institutes of Health (NIH) and National Science Foundation (NSF) were established to harness the power of universities and academic medical centers to advance discoveries that improve lives and drive economic growth. Public investment has yielded breakthroughs that have transformed society and healthcare, including the sequencing of the human genome, imaging technologies, cancer therapies and gene editing.

Biomedical Research in New York State

In New York, sustained federal investment has supported significant infrastructure and workforce expansion, making us a global leader in biomedical research and the life sciences. In recent decades, New York State has produced more medical breakthroughs than most countries. Nearly all of this foundational research is conducted at our medical schools and other nonprofit research institutions, and more than 90% is underwritten by federal research grants.

New York State is the second leading recipient of NIH funding, with nearly \$3.6 billion in 2024, supporting more than 6,000 research projects. These NIH and NSF investments have transformed research infrastructure in the state – including our **eight Clinical and Translational Science Institutes, eight National Cancer Institute-designated cancer centers and the only Research Center in Minority Institutions in the northeast**. Much of this infrastructure is concentrated around our academic medical centers which, in turn, support regional innovation economies.

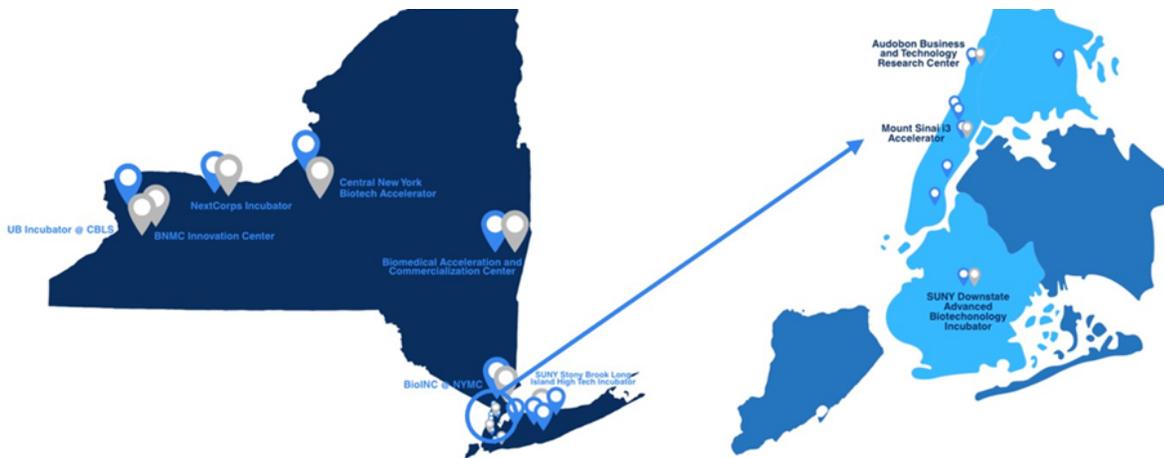


Figure 1. Geographic distribution of New York’s medical schools, incubators and accelerators.

More than 35,000 New Yorkers are employed in biomedical research. At our medical schools alone, more than 17,000 people are directly engaged in research, with an employment multiplier of 2.35 (meaning that for every research job at our academic medical centers an additional 1.35 jobs are supported in the state economy) and generating \$8.3 billion in economic activity.

Federal support, coupled with state and local investments, have likewise paid dividends in the private sector, with nearly 6,000 life sciences companies – a 20% growth over the past five years – attracting \$3.6 billion in venture capital investment.¹ Our biopharmaceutical sector now employs more than 160,000 New Yorkers.

Recent shifts in federal priorities, however, have slowed research operations throughout the country. In the long term, this uncertainty indicates that diversifying funding beyond the federal government will be essential if we are to continue the pace of medical advancements. In the short term, this paradigm shift suggests new opportunities, and state governments and competitors around the world are launching new initiatives intended to recruit scientists and grow their innovation economies. While New York State has made important targeted investments in biomedical research, including our Centers of Excellence, Centers for Advanced Technology and the Life Sciences Initiative, our overall funding for biosciences has not kept pace with other states, leaving New York more reliant on federal funding and therefore more vulnerable to changes in federal priorities.

Federal Policy Changes Have Slowed the Pace of Research

Recent actions by the federal government have slowed funding and created uncertainty about the future of NIH and NSF funding priorities. Without meaningful and timely intervention, these changes may irreversibly harm the research enterprise in New York. In addition to the immediate effects on existing research programs, the termination of grants and proposed reductions in NIH and NSF funding have eroded the scientific community’s confidence in the federal government as a stable partner. Predictability is essential to biomedical research to ensure the security of the multi-year funding and effort investments required to yield the results that lead to transformative treatments and cures.

- New York has been impacted more than any other state by the termination of NIH grants.²
- Grant reviews and awards have slowed to approximately 30% of prior year levels, resulting in a proportional loss of revenue to academic research programs.

¹ <https://bio.widen.net/s/hxpbqhrpbv/new-york---the-u.s.-bioscience-economy---driving-economic-growth-and-opportunity-in-states-and-regions>

² <https://www.aamc.org/media/83996/download>

Our Scientific Workforce Relies on Predictable Funding Partners

Our system of developing future scientists, who contribute to advancements in both academia and the private sector, has relied on its long-term partnership with the federal government. In the short term, reductions in federal funding will restrict career pathways open to graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, and early career bench and clinician scientists. In the long term, the brightest minds will be dissuaded from pursuing careers in science. A brain drain to other states—such as California, Massachusetts, and Texas—or to international research teams in Europe or China – poses a threat to New York’s scientific workforce. Those states and regions making significant investments now will have competitive advantages in recruiting and retaining world-class scientific talent.

- With more medical schools than any other state, New York plays a vital role in national workforce development, training 1 in 7 doctors and 1 in 11 scientists in the US.
- Many PhD programs have recently cut admissions by 30 to 100%. This reduction in the scientific workforce will irreversibly damage productivity and economic growth.
- Existing and proposed cuts to federal research funding are spurring institutions in Europe³ and China to capitalize on this opportunity and recruit researchers who are facing new resource and subject matter limitations as a result of federal actions.

New Yorkers Benefit from Access to Emerging Treatments and Cures

NIH-funded scientists at our academic institutions have for decades made significant breakthroughs in the leading causes of morbidity and mortality, including cancer, neurodegenerative disorders, heart disease and diabetes.

- 99% of FDA-approved therapies from 2010 to 2019 originated from publicly funded research.
- New York State currently hosts more than 4,400 active clinical trials – critical pipelines for new treatments.

The research-to-patient pipeline is integral to providing all New Yorkers access to the latest lifesaving technologies and improving health outcomes. Biomedical research is also a key driver of downstream healthcare cost savings through the development of less expensive, more effective interventions to more accurately prevent and treat disease.

The Urgent Need for Bold State Investment

The future of biomedical research in New York depends on our willingness to invest in state-supported programs that advance scientific research at our medical schools, universities and nonprofit research institutes today. Uncertainty about the scope and scale of future federal research funding will escalate the competition for federal funding and private investments. States with significant research investments and those rapidly innovating in this space are poised to gain an edge over other states and protect their life sciences sectors from global competitors.

Below are examples of work being done by other states and competitors to address these concerns.

California

For decades, California has supported its life sciences sector, providing seed and other funding to startup companies launching from its academic institutions. As a result, California has the most robust life sciences sector in the US, with more than 14,000 life sciences companies employing nearly 335,000 people in 2021 and \$79 billion in venture capital investment from 2018-21.

³ https://commission.europa.eu/topics/research-and-innovation/choose-europe_en

- The [California Institute for Regenerative Medicine \(CIRM\)](#), which supports stem cell science, launched with \$3 billion in 2004 and voters approved an additional \$5.5 billion in 2020. CIRM has recently focused much of its funding on translational science.
- In March 2025, the California state legislature introduced a bill to establish a \$23 billion California Institute for Scientific Research. The bill would create a fund that would award grants and make loans to universities, institutes, companies and organizations to support scientific research in the state.⁴ The aim of this institute is to fortify biomedical research in the state and further cement California as the US leader in the life sciences.

Massachusetts

Massachusetts has long been a global hub for biomedical innovation with a startup ecosystem that supports companies launching from academic institutions.

- The state created its \$1.5 billion [Massachusetts Life Sciences Center](#) to drive basic research and grow its bioscience sector in 2006.
- In August 2025, Governor Healey announced a \$400 million initiative to create a research funding pool and support direct and indirect costs associated with academic research.

Pennsylvania

In order to provide immediate support to Pennsylvania's nine medical schools and life sciences sector, Governor Shapiro's 2025-26 budget proposal includes \$50 million for a new [PA Innovation](#) program, which includes a one-time \$30 million initiative to spur life sciences job growth and \$20 million for annual funding to support large-scale innovation. An additional \$30 million is allocated for life sciences.

Texas

Texas has made substantial investments in research over the past two decades, with a primary focus on cancer, and is now expanding to include research on neurodegenerative diseases. A recent report indicated that every dollar invested in the [Cancer Prevention Research Initiative of Texas \(CPRIT\)](#) returns more than \$200 in economic activity.⁵

- CPRIT launched in 2007 with an initial \$3 billion investment over 10 years. Building on the first decade of success, Texas voters authorized a second \$3 billion investment in CPRIT in 2019. CPRIT is now the second largest public funder of cancer research in the US, following only the National Cancer Institute. Over the last 15 years, CPRIT has awarded \$854 million to Texas institutions specifically to recruit out-of-state scientists through their CPRIT Scholar and Recruitment of Rising Stars (RRS) programs which have included successful recruitments from New York.
- Modeled after CPRIT, Texas launched in May 2025 a new \$3 billion Dementia Prevention Research Initiative of Texas (DPRIT), which will be put to voters on the November 2025 ballot.⁶

Global Competitors

As the US adjusts to federal policy shifts, academic institutions outside the US – notably in Europe and China – have launched new initiatives to recruit scientists from our institutions.

⁴ https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260SB829

⁵ <https://2024annualreport.cprit.texas.gov/cost-of-cancer/>

⁶ <https://www.tmc.edu/ecosystem/dprit/>

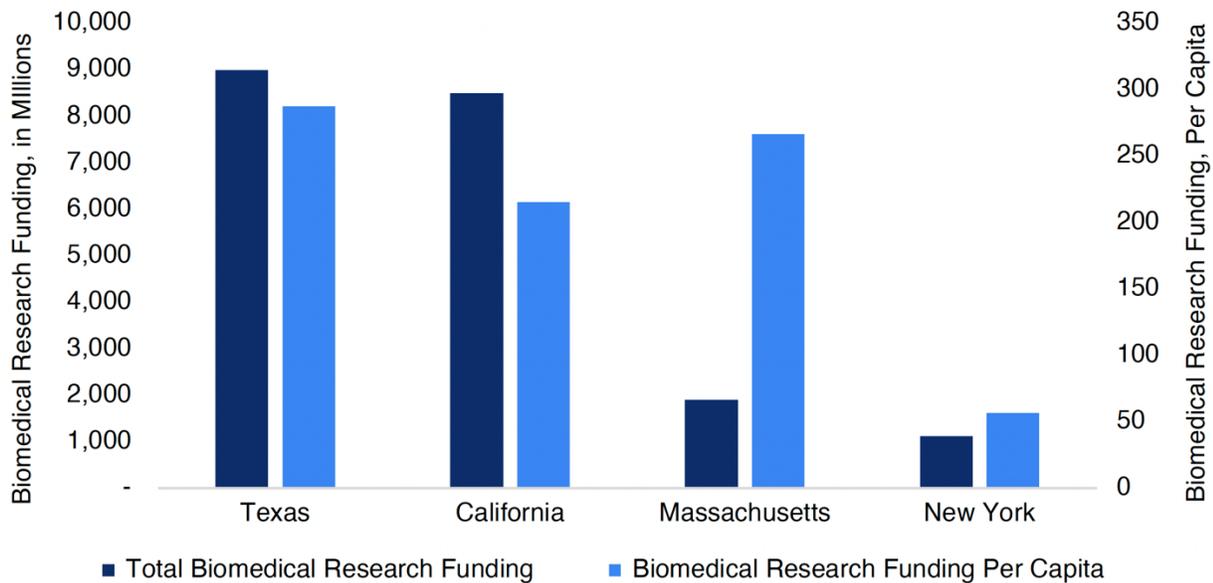


Figure 2. Major State Biomedical Research Funding Initiatives, 2005 – Present.

New York State Investment in Empire Biomedical Research Institute

Long-term funding stability that protects against the vagaries of federal funding and is of a scale to compete with other states and global competitors is essential. Our recommendations for both short-term and long-term approaches to do so are as follows:

- Short-term recommendation: \$500 million to stabilize current research programs, establish EBRI and capitalize on opportunities to recruit and retain scientists.
- Long-term recommendation: \$6 billion over 10 years to advance New York State’s global leadership in biomedicine and ensure access to the highest quality healthcare through new technologies, treatments and cures for all New Yorkers.

EBRI FUNDING

Research that has transformed our health and economy has historically been built around three key mechanisms: individual scientist-driven projects, the availability of established and new technologies to scientists, and collaborative research efforts among groups of researchers, enabling work that exceeds the capabilities of any single laboratory. Core elements of EBRI funding should include:

- Individual investigator-initiated awards: NIH R01-type funding and pilot and feasibility grants.
- Evolving infrastructure: to support scientists from around the state in identifying new technologies and invest in making new technologies available.
- Collaborative research program partnerships across institutions: to facilitate larger projects leveraging New York’s breadth of expertise.
- Training programs: to support graduate students, PhD, MD/PhD, RN/PhD, and DPH, post-doctoral/research fellows, and clinician scientists.

EBRI REVIEW

The EBRI review and governance model has an opportunity to draw upon and improve more than seven decades of national and institutional learning in the organization of public science and reinforce core principles from the founding of the NIH and NSF that scientific research supported by public funds must be:

- Stable in its funding to enable long-term scientific inquiry.
- Guided by expert, independent oversight.
- Conducted outside of direct government operation.
- Protected in institutional autonomy and academic freedom.
- Transparent and accountable.

These foundational principles will form the ethical and operational backbone of EBRI. They affirm that public investment in science must be enduring, fair, insulated from short-term policy decisions and guided by those who understand science and aligned to improve health outcomes for all New Yorkers.

EBRI GOVERNANCE

A three-tier governance structure will (1) supply sound, responsive management through a Board of Directors and its employed officers and staff, (2) choose among well-reviewed applications according to the judgments of a Scientific Advisory Board, and (3) evaluate individual proposals with the help of Application Review Groups.

Board of Directors

- Recruits the Scientific Advisory Board (SAB).
- Awards grants based on recommendations of the SAB, within budget and in the light of additional considerations as appropriate.
- Identifies resource needs for shared state-wide core facilities.
- Prepares and submits annual scientific and financial reports.
- Keeps the public informed and engaged.

Scientific Advisory Board

- Establishes an application cycle, its deadlines and application formats for individual, team and training grant applications.
- Issues Requests for Applications (RFAs). Identifies areas of greatest medical need for New Yorkers and focuses RFAs to respond to those needs.
- Recommends composition of Application Review Groups (ARGs).
- Develops a scoring system for ARGs.
- Refers top-ranked applications to the Board of Directors for funding.
- Reviews final progress reports.

Application Review Groups (ARGs)

- Reviews and scores grant applications.
- Reviews progress reports for multiyear grants and advises SAB on annual renewal.

EBRI ENHANCES CURRENT NEW YORK STATE INITIATIVES

EBRI would advance the health of New Yorkers by ensuring that the discovery and advancement of the most innovative treatments in medicine are developed in New York and are made available to all patients through New York-based healthcare providers. EBRI would build on existing state-funded programs that serve as New York's cornerstones of medical research investment.

- Recognizing the power of artificial intelligence and the need for New York’s research community to access this technology, New York State launched a \$250 million investment in 2024 with the establishment of **Empire AI**. New York State collaborates with research partners through Empire AI who are bringing their expertise to ensure both the long-term success of the initiative and the maximization of the technology’s potential to serve critical societal challenges. EBRI is squarely focused on one such challenge: human health. Consequently, EBRI will also access the Empire AI resources to accelerate the development of clinical therapies. The technology developed and supported by Empire AI will allow researchers to compare the efficacy of different treatments in a much more accurate and timely manner than has been done for decades previously.
- The Empire State Development **Life Science Initiative** (LSI), launched in 2017, brings more than \$600 million in funding and tax credits to the life sciences industry through investments in innovative projects such as the Lab of the Future, the Cell and Gene Therapy Initiative and the Chan Zuckerberg Biohub. In combination with the investments already made through the LSI, these projects have New York State poised to overtake other states in creating the most successful and economically impactful life sciences infrastructure in the country. The discoveries enabled by EBRI will flow through and into these projects via LSI’s academic and private sector partners.
- In building a robust life sciences industry, New York is also competing with other states for the top talent in biomedical research. LSI’s **NYFIRST** program, which funds the recruitment and retention of top scientists at New York’s medical schools, began in 2018 and in its first five funding rounds it has helped attract star scientists to New York from across the country. While NYFIRST has enabled these recruitments, EBRI will ensure the continuity of their research.
- New York is a recognized leader in the development of innovative treatments for spinal cord injury due largely to the creation of the **Spinal Cord Injury Research Program** (SCIRP) in 1999. SCIRP presents a prime example of how EBRI will innovate New York State’s research enterprise, while simultaneously building upon existing program infrastructure.

CONCLUSION

The translational research enterprise across New York State is at an inflection point. If we fail to take meaningful action, we risk the contraction and loss of decades-long investments in research infrastructure, our world-class scientific workforce, the health of our communities and residents, our life sciences economy, and the health benefits that accrue to all New Yorkers. Conversely, bold action now will both stabilize the research enterprise and position New York as a global destination for science. EBRI envisions a New York in which all populations have equal opportunity to live long, healthy and productive lives.

Appendix B: Empire Biomedical Research Institute Sign-on Letter

December 5, 2025

The Honorable Kathy Hochul
Governor
New York State
Executive Chamber, NYS Capitol
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Hochul,

We write as members of New York's scientific, higher education, healthcare delivery, business and economic development communities who are deeply invested in biomedical research and the life sciences. We urge you to take bold action to capitalize on new opportunities and ensure that New York State will continue to lead our nation and the world in science and the delivery of healthcare that benefits all New Yorkers.

New York has been a leading recipient of federal research funding for decades, enabling the growth of a vibrant life sciences sector, which combines our robust academic infrastructure, a talented scientific workforce, an expanding biopharmaceutical sector and a world-class healthcare delivery system. Ongoing changes in federal policies and funding for scientific research, however, challenge the sustained growth of New York's life sciences sector. In particular, we risk losing ground to other states and countries that are expanding their commitments in recognition of the importance of biomedical research to their economies and to the health of their communities. Conversely, there is opportunity for states like New York that possess the infrastructure and workforce and are willing to invest boldly in science.

Bioscience is an important economic driver, with nearly \$6 billion in research expenditures annually, employing 120,000 New Yorkers and training a scientific workforce that drives new discoveries and treatments that improve the health and lives of all New Yorkers. The State's targeted investments in recent years have supported the expansion of our life science sector – particularly our startup economy. This is the moment, however, for a comprehensive, visionary approach to science that supports the breadth of our research-to-patient pipeline. As we have seen in New York and other states, these types of investments are a proven way to advance new discoveries, attract talent and companies and improve health.

We recommend that you invest in the future of bioscience in New York by creating a large-scale, independent grant-making institute to ensure our continued global leadership in science, scientific talent and healthcare delivery.

We look forward to partnering with you on this important effort.

Albany Medical College
Albert Einstein College of Medicine
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
Associated Medical Schools of New York

Blood Cancer United
Cancer Research Institute
Central New York Biotech Accelerator, Upstate Medical University
Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory
Columbia University
Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities (CICU)
Cornell University
CUNY School of Medicine
Healthcare Association of New York State
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center
Mount Sinai Health System
New York Institute of Technology
New York Medical College
New York State Academic Dental Centers
Norton College of Medicine at Upstate Medical University
NYCURES
NYU College of Dentistry
NYU Langone Health
Parker Institute for Cancer Immunotherapy
Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center
Stony Brook University and Stony Brook Medicine
SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University
The Business Council of New York State, Inc.
The Rockefeller University
Touro College of Dental Medicine
Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine
UAW Local 4100
University at Buffalo
University of Rochester
Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra/Northwell