

*State*

## **BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH**

**Request:** The Associated Medical Schools of New York (AMS) urges the Governor and the State Legislature to support funding for basic and transitional biomedical research. Funds are needed for infrastructure needs, programs to attract and retain young scientists and project funds.

**Background:** New York State is home to a strong academic medical research community. New York's scientists are conducting some of the most cutting-edge and exciting research that provides new promising treatments for our patients and our citizens.

Only California and Massachusetts receive more funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and six New York institutions are among the top fifty recipients of NIH funding. However, other states have begun to recognize the need to invest State money in biomedical research in order to attract federal dollars and have a major economic impact on the State's economy. In order to transform the work of the State's fourteen medical schools into an economically viable biotechnology community, State investment in basic research, infrastructure and personnel is urgently needed. Top notch researchers must be drawn to the State by the promise of funding opportunities and a research and economic environment that is welcoming and stable. Venture capital money for biotechnology projects would follow.

Over the prior 15 years, funding awarded by the NIH had grown from \$2 billion to almost \$8 billion. During this interval, New York lost \$1.7 billion in potential NIH funding as its share dropped from 15.1% to less than 11%. While other states had substantially increased their numbers of researchers over time, New York actually lost researchers. (Sources: New York Academy of Medicine, 2006). Subsequently, New York can no longer look at NIH as a stable source of funding for biomedical research.