

# NIH at the Crossroads: Strategies for the Future

Elias A. Zerhouni, M.D.  
Director  
National Institutes of Health





# NIH Budget Facing a “Perfect Storm” in 2006



- Federal & Trade Deficits
- Defense and Homeland Security needs
- Katrina
- Pandemic flu
- Post- Doubling effects
- Physical Sciences focus
- Biomedical research inflation- 3 to 5%

*Competition for funds from the NIH and other sponsors, intensifying year by year, now stands at an unprecedented level, and shows no sign of abating. Never before have so many established investigators faced so much uncertainty about their longevity as active scientists. Never before have so many novices faced so many disincentives to entering or continuing a research career.*

Dr. William F. Raub, NIH Associate Director for Research and Training, strategy paper, 1982





# What Is Really Happening?

## 3 Fundamental Drivers

- Large capacity building throughout U.S. research institutions and increase in number of new faculty
- Appropriations below inflation after 2003
  - Increases of 3 % in '04, 2% in '05 and 0% in 06
  - Biomedical Inflation in 2004 was ~ 5%
- Budget cycling phenomenon















































































