

Routine childhood vaccinations prevent millions of cases of illness. For children vaccinated in 2009, an estimated \$82 billion in costs will be saved and 20 million cases, including 42,000 early deaths, will be prevented.

The first preventive vaccine and experimental treatments were recently deployed in Africa against the Ebola virus, marking a significant public health achievement. The Ebola virus, which ravaged West Africa in 2013 and continues to cost lives in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, has killed more than 10,000 people and severely strained regional socioeconomic stability.

The Human Microbiome Program (HMP) has transformed our understanding of the human/microbiome ecosystem by mapping the normal bacteria that live in and on the healthy human body. Microbiome research at NIH now extends well beyond the HMP to include research at several NIH Institutes, further revealing how microbial community makeup can vary from person-to-person and may correlate with health and disease. With a better understanding of what a “normal” human microbiome looks like, researchers are now exploring how changes in the microbiome are associated with, or even cause, illnesses.

Looking ahead: Continued progress requires a sustained commitment to funding

sustained funding to NIAID, scientists continue the quest for a universal flu vaccine, which will dramatically reduce the toll the virus takes on the U.S. each year, as well as reduce the chances of pandemic flu. In the past year, the first in human trials of a universal flu vaccine candidate were launched at the NIH Clinical Center.

CDC's indispensable role in preventing and controlling infectious disease

The programs and activities supported by CDC are essential to protect the health of the American people. ASM appreciates the important increases that Congress provided for many CDC programs in FY 2020. Today's challenges reinforce the need for a strong CDC, and we urge Congress to build on these investments in FY 2021, including robust funding for the

continued flat funding, the program's ability to support its mission is threatened. With additional funds, the AMD program can promote greater innovation, expand workforce development, and enter into productive partnerships with academic research institutions and state/local public health agencies. ASM requests \$57 million in for AMD FY 2021, in order for this program to fully achieve its potential.

Multiple programs support antimicrobial resistance, which is one of the most daunting health challenges we face today. ASM requests funding for the Antibiotic Resistance Solutions Initiative at \$200 million, the National Healthcare Safety Network at \$25 million, and the Division of Global Health Protection at \$275 million will ensure that we have the resources across multiple programs to address this urgent public health challenge.

Support for laboratory capacity is paramount, and the Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Disease labs are the world's reference labs. But maintaining labs costs more each year, from quality and safety initiatives, to the cost of shipments and supplies, to recruiting and retaining specialized and highly trained staff.