

105TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. CON. RES. 127

Recognizing the 50th anniversary of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 9 (legislative day, OCTOBER 2), 1998

Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Mr. MACK) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Recognizing the 50th anniversary of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, and for other purposes.

Whereas November 1998 marks the 50th anniversary of the creation of the National Microbiological Institute (referred to in this resolution as the “Institute”) under authority of section 202 of the Public Health Service Act;

Whereas the Institute was formed through the combination of the Rocky Mountain Laboratory, the Biologics Control Laboratory, the Division of Infectious Diseases and the Division of Tropical Diseases of the National Institutes of Health;

Whereas in 1955 Congress renamed the Institute as the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (referred to in this resolution as “NIAID”) under the authority of the Omnibus Medical Research Act, recogniz-

ing the need for a coordinated scientific research program on infectious, allergic and immunologic diseases;

Whereas the research portfolio of NIAID encompasses infectious diseases such as acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS), tuberculosis, sexually transmitted diseases, malaria and influenza, immunologic diseases including asthma, allergies and primary immune deficiency diseases, transplantation immunology, and development of new diagnostic therapies and vaccines for infectious diseases;

Whereas research supported by NIAID continues to yield promising advances including the development of vaccines against the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), and in the identification of effective treatment regimens for childhood asthma;

Whereas the continued threat of emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases, like tuberculosis, poses a risk to the health worldwide, NIAID-supported research provides the necessary tools to develop diagnostic tests, new and improved treatments, vaccines and other means to combat the microbial threats of today and those of the future;

Whereas NIAID-supported research is making significant progress in understanding the immune system and its disorders including the mechanisms of immune tolerance, which refers to the ability of the immune system to distinguish between cells and tissues that are “self” and those that are foreign or “non-self,” such as a pathogen, tumor, or transplanted organ;

Whereas such advances are vital to the field of organ transplantation and may prove useful in treating autoimmune

diseases, such as rheumatoid arthritis and multiple sclerosis; and

Whereas Congress intends that NIAID continue its innovative leadership in delineating pathogenesis, improving diagnosis and treatment, and developing vaccines to prevent infectious and immunologic diseases, thereby contributing to the overall health of the American public and the people of the world: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives*
2 *concurring), That Congress—*

3 (1) recognizes the historic significance of the
4 50th anniversary of the establishment of the Na-
5 tional Microbiological Institute and the creation of
6 the Institute that became the National Institute of
7 Allergy and Infectious Diseases;

8 (2) recognizes the research scientists, adminis-
9 trative staff, professional societies, and patient
10 groups for their active participation in support of
11 the research programs and goals of the NIAID; and

12 (3) reaffirms its support of the National Insti-
13 tute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases and its com-
14 mitment to advance knowledge and improve health.

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