

## MESSAGE FROM THE FDA COMMISSIONER

I am pleased to present the FY 2009 Congressional Justification for Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

The FDA Congressional Justification contains a performance budget request that supports public health priorities and reflects the goals and objectives in the Department of Health and Human Service and the FDA Strategic Plans. Our justification contains the FY 2009 Annual Performance Plan and the FY 2007 Annual Performance Report, as required by the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) of 1993.

At FDA, we manage our programs to achieve measurable results and objectives that protect and advance the public health through a life-cycle approach to the safety of the products we regulate. Our Congressional Justification reflects a streamlined budget presentation that directly links the proposed budget to program performance.

In FY 2009, we request funds to implement Food Protection Plan and the Import Safety Action Plan that the Administration announced on November 6, 2007. Our request also strengthens the safety of human and animal drugs, tissues and blood products, and medical devices. The budget request includes funds for FDA's cost of living pay increase to enable FDA to recruit, train, and retain a diverse staff of highly skilled professionals and scientists.

These investments are consistent with FDA's highest public health priorities and the national need to restrain discretionary spending. They allow FDA to maintain the professional staff that is our most critical asset. Our skilled workforce allows FDA to achieve the gold standard for regulating foods, drugs, and medical products.

In FY 2009, FDA will implement the new requirements and higher funding levels for FDA's prescription drug and medical device user fee programs, as authorized by the Food and Drug Administration Amendments Act (FDAAA). We will also implement other new FDAAA requirements related to FDA food programs. We will continue the important priorities of FDA's Critical Path Program with base funding that Congress provided for FY 2008.

At FDA, we pledge to continue to speed innovations that make our food supply safer and make medical products effective, safer, and more affordable. We also pledge to continue to ensure that the public receives accurate, science-based information so they can use medicines and foods to improve their health. We will be good stewards of the resources that Congress provides and build a healthier America for generations to come.

Andrew C. von Eschenbach, M.D.