

LETTER FROM THE ACTING COMMISSIONER



I am pleased to present the FY 2017 Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Budget.

FDA has broad responsibilities to protect and promote public health. Indeed, we are tasked with overseeing products that account for about 20 cents of the consumer dollar. FDA is responsible for ensuring: a safe, sanitary, and wholesome food supply; safe and effective drugs, devices, and biological therapeutics; availability of medical countermeasures to address public health emergencies; reducing harms from tobacco products; and effective management of critical laboratory, office, and support facilities.

FDA continues to work to obtain the most public health value for the federal dollar as we address expanded regulatory responsibilities and scientific challenges. In recent years, FDA has assumed the requirements of the Food Safety Modernization Act of 2011, put in place new approval pathways for drugs, initiated new activities around compounding, and taken on a major program on tobacco oversight and regulation, to name just a few important examples. Industry has changed, certain sectors have grown, the complexity of applications has increased substantially with genomics data, and production methods have evolved. Innovation and science are now occurring at a faster pace than ever. Moreover, our global responsibilities continue to grow as more of our foods and medical products come from abroad.

Despite these challenges, FDA has accomplished significant and notable achievements over the past year in the areas of food safety, medical product innovation, safety, and oversight, nutrition, antimicrobial resistance, and tobacco product regulation. For example, FDA took major steps to prevent foodborne illness by finalizing five rules that will implement the landmark Food Safety Modernization Act. FDA also approved more than 40 novel drugs, including treatments for patients with cancer, drugs for patients with heart failure, and another robust year of approvals for rare or “orphan” diseases. In addition, FDA unveiled a dynamic public education campaign designed to prevent and reduce tobacco use among at-risk African Americans, Hispanics, and Asian American/Pacific Islander youth.

In FY 2017, FDA is requesting a total of \$5.1 billion that includes a targeted but significant net increase of \$15 million in budget authority and \$75 million in new mandatory resources to:

- support food safety – focused on produce safety and oversight of imports
- improve medical product safety and availability, including efforts to improve cancer diagnostics and treatments as part of the Vice President’s Cancer Moonshot
- address infrastructure challenges at owned facilities to enable FDA to keep up with its expanded mission and respond to public health emergencies.

FDA is fully committed to continuing to meet the needs and expectations of the American people by ensuring the safety and effectiveness of FDA-regulated products.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen M. Ostroff".

Stephen M. Ostroff, M.D.
Acting Commissioner of Food and Drugs