

MESSAGE FROM THE ACTING COMMISSIONER



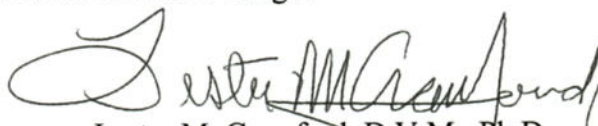
I am pleased to submit the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) FY 2006 budget that represents the agency's resource requirements for the coming year. These resources will support our increasingly critical work to protect and advance the health of Americans by ensuring the safety and security of food, medical products, and animal drugs and feed, while promoting innovation so that consumers may rapidly obtain more effective health-care products and information.

The request of \$1,881,489,000, which includes budget authority and user fees, focuses on four areas that I will briefly highlight.

First, the request funds the critical work involved with protecting the Nation's food supply and will assist FDA in meeting the goals established by the White House Homeland Security Presidential Directive/HSPD-9, "Defense of the United States Agriculture and Food," which requires "enhancing screening procedures for domestic and imported products." Second, our request supports our medical device program and would be augmented with user fees, as well as agreed upon ambitious performance goals, to improve the quality and time required for innovative medical devices to reach the market. Third, the request will increase and enhance the review and analysis by the Office of Drug Safety within the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research of both pre-marketing and post-marketing safety information on all products regulated by the Center. Finally, the budget request supports our ongoing move to the new Federal Research Center in White Oak, Maryland, where the General Services Administration is building FDA's consolidated modern laboratories and office campus.

To address these priorities as efficiently as possible, FDA has built on the significant progress in implementing the President's Management Agenda and the goal of the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services for administrative consolidation. A cornerstone of our recent successes in these managerial reforms is our reliance on the Shared Services Organization that is providing high quality service to our organizations. Another example of managerial reform can be seen in FDA's continued, concerted effort to trim its Information Technology costs. Our continuing efforts to improve FDA efficiency will allow us to redirect reform savings to national priority, mission-critical areas, including food security, counterterrorism, medical countermeasures, bovine spongiform encephalopathy prevention, and patient safety.

Thank you for your continued support of FDA in the FY 2006 budget.


Lester M. Crawford, D.V.M., Ph.D.

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