Smell & taste are intimately linked with HEALTH

- Smell loss is among the earliest symptoms of Alzheimer's and Parkinson's Diseases
- Smell & taste loss are symptoms of COVID-19
- Smell and taste are important for safety, warning of spoiled foods, gas leaks and fire
- Cancer chemotherapy causes unpleasant taste distortions contributing to malnutrition
- Smell impacts interpersonal relationships

THERE IS NO CLINICALLY EFFECTIVE TREATMENT FOR LOSS OF SMELL & TASTE & NO ROUTINE TESTING FOR THESE DEFICITS

Most federal funds for research on this topic come from the National Institute on Deafness & Other Communicative Disorders—(NIDCD): a part of NIH

WE ASK THAT YOUR MEMBER:

1. Write to the Director of NIH to ask that percentage of funds for smell and taste research allocated to NIDCD be increased. This is crucial because even most scientists and physicians don’t realize the impact on the economy and personal well-being due to this type of sensory loss.
2. Support the full budget requested by NIH!
3. Support legislation leading to universal taste and smell testing, like there is for vision and hearing

¹US tax revenue 2021 $2.99T. Domestic food sales 2021 $2.12T
CHEMOSENSORY LOSSES INCREASED AFTER THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

- Chemosensory loss from COVID-19 usually resolves in several weeks but ~5% of former COVID patients (hundreds of thousands)—are still suffering from long-term smell dysfunction.

- Smell impairment (even in healthy people) increases with aging (see left).

Based on a Pre-Pandemic 2011 & 2012 survey:

~1 in 4 AMERICANS OVER THE AGE OF 40 report a diminished sense of smell or persistent bad smell.

~1 in 5 AMERICANS report a diminished sense of taste or persistent bad taste.

These numbers are expected to be much higher now...

- Smell and taste impairment reduces the pleasure of eating and can lead to poor nutrition, a special concern in the elderly or ill.
- Taste and smell are critical for safety, warning about spoiled foods, gas leaks, and fire.
- We are at a critical juncture for research into taste and smell.

THIS RESEARCH IS NECESSARY TO:

- Develop effective treatments for chemosensory dysfunction.
- Develop and distribute universal testing to determine the extent of chemosensory loss due to COVID-19 and other illnesses that could impact these senses.

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