

August 21, 2017

The Honorable Mick Mulvaney
Director
Office of Management & Budget
725 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20503

The Honorable Thomas Price, MD
Secretary
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Director Mulvaney and Secretary Price:

The undersigned organizations representing patients, researchers, clinicians, and research institutions write to express our strong opposition to the Administration's proposal to cut \$7.2 billion, or 21 percent, from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) budget in fiscal year (FY) 2018, including the proposal to drastically reduce NIH support for facilities and administrative (F&A) expenses (also referred to as "indirect costs") for physical infrastructure and other essential research costs.

Our nation's longstanding, bipartisan commitment to medical research has yielded countless benefits, including longer average life expectancy and improved quality of life. The work carried out every day by talented researchers in labs across the country promises to build on these successes, bringing hope to millions of patients facing life-threatening or life-altering diseases. Additionally, the federal investment in NIH bolsters local and regional economies through high-paying, skilled jobs. These efforts, in turn, strengthen our country's global competitiveness, while other countries, including China, redouble their own investments in medical research to unseat us as the world's leader.

The Administration's proposal would undermine these achievements and would jeopardize future progress in medical research. Conducting high-quality medical research for our country carries expenses, including essential costs for maintenance and development of state-of-the-art labs, utilities such as precision climate control, security protections for handling dangerous chemicals, proper disposal of hazardous waste, and personnel to support required administrative and compliance work, among others. It simply is not possible to carry out medical research without incurring such expenses, and NIH support for F&A helps offset a portion of these real research costs.

In short, a cut to F&A reimbursements is a cut to biomedical research and would diminish the ability of researchers to conduct critical research. If the Administration's proposal to reduce NIH support for F&A moves forward, it will make research unaffordable for many institutions and ultimately lead to less research carried out across the country. This would harm the pace of progress for countering many of our most vexing diseases. The economic impact could also be significant; communities will lose jobs, and the country will fall behind as our foreign competitors forge ahead in medical research. These consequences will hurt patients, scientists, and all Americans.

As you know, Congress repeatedly has approved bipartisan funding increases for NIH through the annual spending bills and the 21st Century Cures Act. If we are to remain a vibrant force in the global economy and address our nation's most pressing health challenges, America needs more investment in medical research, not less.

We strongly urge the Administration to reconsider the proposal on F&A reimbursements and to strengthen its commitment to medical research.

Sincerely,

Academic Consortium for Integrative Medicine and Health
Academic Pediatric Association
Academy of Radiology Research
AcademyHealth
Addiction Medicine Foundation
Alliance for Academic Internal Medicine
American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation
American Association for Cancer Research
American Association for Dental Research
American Association for the Advancement of Science
American Association of Anatomists
American Association of Immunologists
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
American College of Clinical Pharmacology
American College of Physicians
American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
American Gastroenterological Association
American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering
American Lung Association
American Neurological Association
American Pediatric Society
American Physiological Society
American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
American Society for Investigative Pathology
American Society for Microbiology
American Society for Nutrition
American Society for Pharmacology & Experimental Therapeutics
American Society for Radiation Oncology
American Society of Clinical Oncology
American Society of Nephrology
American Society of Transplantation
American Thoracic Society
American Urological Association

American Veterinary Medical Association
Association for Applied Psychophysiology and Biofeedback
Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology
Association of Academic Chairs of Emergency Medicine
Association of Academic Health Sciences Libraries
Association of Academic Psychiatrists
Association of American Cancer Institutes
Association of American Medical Colleges
Association of American Universities
Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges
Association of Anatomy Cell Biology and Neurobiology Chairs
Association of Chairs of Departments of Physiology
Association of Independent Research Institutes
Association of Medical and Graduate Departments of Biochemistry
Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs
Association of Pediatric Program Directors
Association of Psychologists in Academic Health Centers
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities
Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health
Association of University Anesthesiologists
Association of University Professors of Neurology
Association of University Radiologists
Behavior Genetics Association
Biophysical Society
Children's Cause for Cancer Advocacy
Coalition for the Life Sciences
Cognitive Neuroscience Society
Consortium of Social Science Associations
Council of Graduate Departments of Psychology
Council on Governmental Relations
Cystic Fibrosis Foundation
Digestive Disease National Coalition
Dystonia Medical Research Foundation
ECAN Esophageal Cancer Action Network
Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation
Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology
Federation of Associations in Behavioral and Brain Sciences
Foundation for Vaccine Research
GBS|CIDP Foundation International
Intercultural Cancer Caucus
International Foundation for Functional Gastrointestinal Disorders
International Society for Developmental Psychobiology
Interstitial Cystitis Association
Lung Cancer Alliance
Lupus and Allied Diseases Association, Inc.
Lupus Foundation of America

Medical Library Association
Muscular Dystrophy Association
National Alliance for Eye and Vision Research
National Association of College and University Business Officers
National Coalition for Cancer Research (NCCR)
NephCure Kidney International
Oncology Nursing Society
Pediatric Policy Council
Psychonomic Society
Research!America
Society for Academic Emergency Medicine
Society for Computers in Psychology
Society for Neuroscience
Society for Pediatric Research
Society for Psychophysiological Research
Society for Research in Psychopathology
Society of Academic Associations of Anesthesiology and Perioperative Medicine
Society of Multivariate Experimental Psychology
Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging
Susan G. Komen
The Association of Departments of Family Medicine
The Cognitive Science Society
The National Disease Research Interchange (NDRI)
The Society for Text and Discourse
The Society of General Internal Medicine
The Society of Teachers of Family Medicine
Vision Science Society
ZERO - The End of Prostate Cancer