May 25, 2011

The Honorable Harold Rogers
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Rogers,

On behalf of the Council of The American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics (ASPET), I write to express great concern about the House Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee FY 2012 markup that cuts FDA funding by $285 million below its FY 2011 level of $2.457 billion.

FDA is a critical public health agency with an extensive mandate that includes helping to make sure that drugs and vaccines are safe. FDA has been underfunded for two decades. The past three years saw the agency make needed gains to more fully meet it growing and complex scientific mandate. The proposed funding cuts by the House Subcommittee jeopardize this progress and will prevent FDA from meeting its congressionally mandated charge and its responsibility to the American public.

Breakthroughs in science and technology are poised to transform our ability to prevent, diagnose and treat disease. Without adequate funding, FDA will not be able to fully take advantage of these advancements for the development and utilization of new tools to assure safety and quality. Data driven science is the heart of FDA and robust regulatory science is needed to enable these biomedical advances to meet global health needs. A well funded FDA will help develop medical countermeasures against threats to US and global health and security, provide innovation in product development and innovation to treat disease through personalized medicine, and help modernize pharmacology, toxicology and risk assessment in drug safety.

ASPET realizes the need to responsibly address the nation’s debt and deficit situation. But a cut to the FDA’s budget is against the public health interest of the United States and does not advance the nation’s economic interests. FDA needs sustained, steady and predictable increases to meet its public health responsibilities.

Sincerely,

James R. Halpert
President