

August 21, 2017

The Honorable Mick Mulvaney  
Director  
Office of Management & Budget  
725 17<sup>th</sup> 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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