



Council

David R. Sibley

President
Bethesda, Maryland

John D. Schuetz

President-Elect
St. Jude Children's Research
Hospital

Kenneth E. Thummel

Past President
University of Washington

Charles P. France

Secretary/Treasurer
The University of Texas Health
Science Center at San Antonio

John J. Tesmer

Secretary/Treasurer-Elect
University of Michigan

Dennis C. Marshall

Past Secretary/Treasurer
Ferring Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

Margaret E. Gnegy

Councilor
University of Michigan Medical
School

Wayne L. Backes

Councilor
Louisiana State University Health
Sciences Center

Carol L. Beck

Councilor
Thomas Jefferson University

Mary E. Vore

*Chair, Board of Publications
Trustees*
University of Kentucky

Brian M. Cox

FASEB Board Representative
Bethesda, Maryland

Scott A. Waldman

Chair, Program Committee
Thomas Jefferson University

Judith A. Siuciak

Executive Officer

The Honorable Roy Blunt, Chair,
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education
Appropriations Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran, Chair
Appropriations Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education
Appropriations Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski, Ranking Member
Appropriations Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Cole, Chair
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education
Appropriations Committee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education
Appropriations Committee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey, Ranking Member
Appropriations Committee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairs Blunt, Cole, Cochran, and Rogers, and Ranking Members Murray, DeLauro, Mikulski, and Lowey:

The American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics (ASPET) appreciates this opportunity to thank you for your leadership in championing sustained, real growth in medical research funding, and to urge passage of appropriations legislation when Congress returns following the November 8 election. It is critical for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and all discretionary health programs that Congress completes final omnibus spending legislation for FY 2017 before January 1.

The current short-term Continuing Resolution providing temporary funding for government programs is of great concern. For the NIH, the continued breakdown of regular order of this year's appropriations process disrupts NIH's ability to meet funding obligations to the institutions and biomedical research scientists the agency funds. The possibility of an extension of the CR, or a year-long CR would further compromise NIH's ability to meet its current obligations and research opportunities. A further diminishment of NIH's purchasing power that we have seen for several years will impact human health and hurt the agency's ability to address emerging health threats. Furthermore, failing to meet scientific opportunities and needs of the NIH will mean continued hardship for many academic health centers and universities conducting important biomedical research. The diminishment of our nation's investment in biomedical research has already influenced the career decisions of the next generation of scientists who see no future in pursuing research in biomedicine as a realistic career path.

In addition to improving patient health, the medical research enterprise also drives local and national economic activity, strengthens U.S. competitiveness in an increasingly innovation-based global marketplace, and inspires future generations of scientists to commit to careers in research.

Your bipartisan commitment to reliable and meaningful growth in the NIH budget is essential to continuing the momentum of the investment in NIH made in FY 2016. To that end, ASPET strongly supports enactment of a final FY 2017 spending package that maximizes the federal support for NIH and avoids a long-term continuing resolution (CR). Aside from the budget implications, a long-term CR would create inefficiencies and add uncertainty to a system that is already under stress. Once again, we commend you for continuing to recognize the critical importance of NIH and strongly urge lawmakers to make finalizing the FY 2017 appropriations a priority.

Sincerely,

David R. Sibley, Ph.D.
President



Transforming Discoveries into Therapies

ASPET · 9650 Rockville Pike · Bethesda, Maryland 20814 · Office: 301-634-7060 · aspet.org