For Immediate Release
Contact: Susanna Aguirre
301-634-7062
saguirre@aspet.org

ASPET Statement in Response to the President Trump's Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 Budget Blueprint

BETHESDA –The American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics (ASPET) expresses deep concern regarding the proposed cuts to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in President Trump's recently released fiscal year (FY) 2018 budget blue print.

A robust, sustainable investment in the medical research enterprise is critical to improving patient health and strengthening the economy while maintaining the global preeminence of the United States in scientific innovation. More than 80 percent of the NIH budget supports research in all 50 states at medical schools, teaching hospitals, universities, and research institutes, which often are the largest employers in their respective communities.

The proposed dramatic cut to NIH funding would profoundly disrupt the forward progress of our biomedical research discoveries and consequently have a major negative impact on the well-being and health of our citizens; by disrupting progress in the continuity of our Nation's complex and interdisciplinary biomedical research, we will reduce the rate of therapeutic discoveries and thereby increase healthcare costs. NIH funded biomedical research is the foundation for therapeutic discoveries, which are linked to FDA-approved therapeutics and represent a critical path to improved healthcare for our Nation.

Additionally, we appeal to Congress to recognize the profoundly disruptive consequences of a proposed 20% reduction in NIH funding to employment and communities related to medical research centers across our Country.

Congress has consistently shown bipartisan support for biomedical research in the appropriations process and these proposed cuts undermine the positive momentum gained from the recent passage of the 21st Century Cures legislation and the increased funding approved by the Senate Appropriations Committee for FY 2017.

To ensure America's continued leadership in the face of increasing competition in biomedical research, we must prioritize a budget trajectory for NIH that advances sustainable, predictable growth.

ASPET calls on Congress to stand with us and reject these drastic proposed cuts and maintain a course of sustained funding for America's premier health agency, which benefits the entire nation and is critical to ensuring the United States' position as the world leader in biomedical research.

●●●

ASPET is a scientific society whose members conduct basic and clinical pharmacological research and work for academia, government, large pharmaceutical companies, small biotech companies, and even non-profit organizations. ASPET members work in a variety of different fields and include neuroscientists, toxicologists, chemical biologists, pharmacists, cardiovascular scientists, and many more. These research efforts help develop new medicines and therapeutic agents to fight existing and emerging diseases.