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The White House
Washington, DC 20500

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
US Senate
S-230, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
House Democratic Leader
H-204, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker
US House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, DC 205156

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
US Senate
S-221, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20514

January 30, 2017

Dear President Trump, Speaker Ryan, Majority Leader McConnell, Minority Leader Schumer and Minority Leader Pelosi:

The American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics (ASPET) appreciates this opportunity to welcome the new administration and to thank Congress for their leadership in championing sustained growth in medical research funding; **and to urge you to enact, without further delay, a final fiscal year (FY) 2017 spending package that includes the Senate Appropriations Committee-approved \$34.1 billion for the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and to ensure that NIH remains a priority in FY 2018 and beyond.**

The current continuing resolution providing temporary funding for government programs is of great concern. For the NIH, the continued breakdown of regular order of the appropriations process disrupts NIH's ability to meet funding obligations to the institutions and biomedical research scientists that the agency supports.

A robust, reliable 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's budget supports research in all 50 states at medical schools, teaching hospitals, universities, and research institutes, which often are among the largest employers in their respective communities.

We are grateful to Congress for their bipartisan effort in the appropriations process to mitigate years of stagnant funding by providing real growth over inflation for NIH and by passing the *21st Century Cures Act*; a flat FY 2017 appropriation threatens to undermine these key efforts. Aside from the budget implications, a long-term CR would create inefficiencies and add uncertainty to a system that is already under stress.

Your commitment to reliable and meaningful growth in the NIH budget is essential to continuing the momentum of the investment made in FY 2016. To that end, **ASPET strongly urges the passage of a final spending package to fully fund the federal government for FY 2017, providing the bipartisan budget increases the House and Senate previously approved for the NIH.** To ensure America's continued leadership in an increasingly competitive innovation environment, we must prioritize a budget trajectory for NIH that advances sustainable, predictable growth. Once again, we commend you for continuing to recognize the critical importance of research funding and look forward to your immediate action.

Sincerely,

David R. Sibley, Ph.D.
President

cc: The Honorable Tom Price, Secretary-Designate of Health and Human Services;
The Honorable Mick Mulvaney, White House Office of Management and Budget Director-designate