



THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF
IMMUNOLOGISTS

**Statement of Beth A. Garvy, Ph.D., Chair, Committee on Public Affairs
of The American Association of Immunologists (AAI),
Regarding President Donald Trump's Fiscal Year 2019 Budget Request
February 12, 2018**

The American Association of Immunologists (AAI) strongly opposes the President's fiscal year (FY) 2019 budget proposal for the National Institutes of Health (NIH). As the nation's largest funder of biomedical science, NIH supports cutting-edge research that is conducted in every state across this nation and that leads to urgently needed treatments and cures. The President's proposal, which calls for a devastating cut to the NIH budget of more than 27 percent, has been modified by an Addendum which identifies NIH as an Administration priority and recommends restoring this proposed cut. While AAI appreciates this revision, AAI is deeply disappointed that NIH would not see a meaningful budget increase, despite the availability of \$68 billion in new non-defense FY 2019 budget authority made possible by the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018.

AAI is intensely grateful that Congress continues to recognize the need to provide NIH with robust, predictable, and sustained growth, as evidenced by the \$2 billion funding increases provided to NIH in both FY 2016 and FY 2017, and as approved by the Senate Appropriations Committee for FY 2018. AAI urges Congress to continue this laudable trend and approve an increase of at least \$2 billion for NIH for both FY 2018 and FY 2019.

AAI also strongly opposes proposed cuts to other federal agencies that support biomedical research or enable NIH-funded discoveries to advance human health. While it is vitally important to provide ample funding for NIH, it is also critically important to ensure that agencies like the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), which utilizes these discoveries to prevent disease and promote public health, receive increased funding and support.