

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 "America First Budget" ("Skinny Budget")
March 24, 2017**

The American Association of Immunologists (AAI) is deeply disappointed that the President's "America First Budget" ("skinny budget") proposes a cut of nearly 20% to the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the nation's leading funder of biomedical research. Such a cut would be unprecedented and would cause irreparable damage to, and chaos within, both NIH and the nation's extraordinary and successful biomedical research enterprise. AAI would also strongly oppose any cuts to NIH or to other federal agencies which support important scientific research or enable NIH-funded discoveries to help prevent and treat disease and disability in the United States and around the world.

Very fortunately, leading Members of Congress have already spoken forcefully and unequivocally against these proposed budget cuts. From Speaker of the House Paul Ryan (R-WI, 1st), who cited recent passage of the 21st Century Cures Act by 12 members of Congress

Senator Charles Schumer (D-NY), Senate Democratic Leader: “[Cuts to NIH would] be a huge mistake” with “terrible” consequences for New York. “We’re one of the centers of medical research. . . . It would be drastic, and it would also hurt our standard of living. Scientific research creates lots of good-paying jobs.” (<http://www.timesunion.com/tuplus-business/article/Schumer-Trump-budget-would-be-terrible-huge-11008365.php>)

Representative Kevin Yoder (R