

# ASBMT™

## American Society for Blood and Marrow Transplantation

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June 2017

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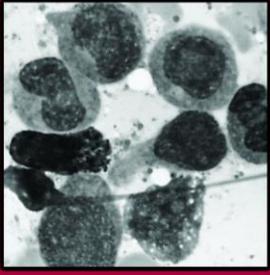
2018 Annual Meeting  
February 21-25  
Salt Lake City, Utah

Following the release of an earlier draft budget blueprint, the Trump administration on Tuesday May 22<sup>nd</sup> released their final budget proposal for FY18, entitled “A New Foundation for American Greatness.” The American Society for Blood and Marrow Transplantation (ASBMT) is an international professional society representing more than 2,200 physicians, scientists and other clinicians who advance the art of blood and marrow transplantation and cellular therapies for cancer and other diseases. Our members have helped to dramatically advance outcomes for patients with a broad range of cancer and other diseases in the 25 years of the ASBMT’s existence. The ASBMT leadership has reviewed in detail the proposed budget, and we strongly oppose the budget in its current form, and urge our elected leaders in the United States to do the same.

While there are myriad impacts to the health and welfare of the patients, physicians and scientists whose cause we represent, we wish to outline several key examples that influenced our current position. First and foremost, this budget proposes deep cuts to the budget of the National Institutes of Health, from \$34.6 billion in FY17 to \$26.9 billion in FY18, or an overall of 22%. Within this cut is a flawed proposal to dramatically reduce indirect costs to universities and academic centers with the goal of reducing cost as well as the potential for “fraud and abuse.” Indirect costs are an essential source of funds for institutions that make uncertain investments in the substantial research infrastructure needed to support research, including research space, information technologies and core facilities without which modern research would be impossible. Cuts to indirect funds will be as devastating as cuts in individual grants, and will force many individuals to reduce their commitment to research.

Additionally, the budget for the National Cancer Institute (NCI), a key source of funding for research in our field, would be reduced approximately \$1B, or around 19%. This reduction in funding to the NCI will adversely impact the progress of cancer research and the availability of clinical trials for the millions of Americans living with cancer.

These cuts, and others to agencies like the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) will damage American research productivity and limit basic research and clinical trials needed for the devastating diseases we treat. This will force a contraction in academic research infrastructure and decrease the number of individuals employed in our academic institutions. Drug



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development will be adversely affected, with negative consequences for the US biotechnology and pharmaceutical industries. Cuts to AHRQ programs will limit our ability to develop more cost effective and value-based therapies for complex medical conditions.

Given these and other negative impacts of the proposed FY18 budget, we urge our elected representatives on both sides of the political aisle to come together and to continue their longstanding and deep commitment to American science and its foundation in basic and clinical research. We hope they reject the vision reflected in this proposal and in a bipartisan fashion ensure that the United States continues to value and foster science, creativity and our exceptional academic medical institutions.

Krishna Komanduri, MD

President, ASBMT