



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF HEMATOLOGY

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SENT TO ALL U.S. SENATORS VIA E-MAIL AND FAX

April 1, 2009

RE: Action Regarding FY 2010 NIH Budget

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the American Society of Hematology (ASH), I write to urge your continued support for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) by providing an increase in funding of at least 7 percent for NIH in fiscal year (FY) 2010.

ASH represents more than 16,000 clinicians and scientists committed to the study and treatment of blood and blood-related diseases. The patients we treat have malignant hematologic disorders such as leukemia and lymphoma, non-malignant conditions including anemia and hemophilia, and congenital disorders such as sickle cell anemia and thalassemia.

In addition, hematologists have been pioneers in the fields of bone marrow transplantation, gene therapy, and many drugs for the prevention and treatment of heart attacks and strokes. Hematology research has been a pathway for new avenues of inquiry and has actually spawned entire new disciplines. ASH members are active participants in NIH's programs, recipients of NIH grants, and contributors to NIH's research accomplishments. NIH funding has contributed to major research accomplishments in our field such as treatment and cures for childhood leukemias, extending the lifespan for sickle cell disease patients, and the development of targeted therapies for many hematologic diseases and conditions.

The research supported and conducted by NIH has had a profound and far-reaching impact on our nation in many important ways, serving as a catalyst for new products and technologies, creating skilled jobs, contributing to the nation's economic growth, and most importantly, safeguarding and improving the lives of all our citizens. The medical schools, teaching hospitals, universities, and research institutes where this research takes place are among the largest employers in their respective communities and the discoveries resulting from the investment in NIH research are driving the transformation of the practice of medicine through the development of new and personalized therapies, cures, and prevention strategies.

ASH appreciates the support Congress has shown for the biomedical research community with the funding provided for NIH in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). After several years of annual appropriations that have not kept pace with biomedical inflation, the funding provided for the

2009

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NIH in ARRA is a crucial step toward rebuilding NIH's vitality and reversing recent budget trends. However, this commitment to NIH must be maintained.

Large fluctuations in funding for NIH hinder the Institutes' ability to sustain the momentum of discovery and are disruptive to careers, training, long-range projects, and ultimately to progress. Unless NIH continues to be adequately funded, it will be extremely difficult for hematologists and other health professionals to continue to train promising researchers, create research advances, and improve the health of all Americans.

Again, the Society thanks Congress for supporting biomedical research and urges your continued support of NIH by providing an increase in funding of at least 7 percent for NIH in FY 2010. Your efforts will make a huge difference to researchers and the patients we treat.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nancy Berliner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Nancy Berliner, MD
President



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SENT VIA E-MAIL AND FAX

April 1, 2009

RE: Action Regarding FY 2010 NIH Budget

Dear Members of the U.S. House of Representatives:

On behalf of the American Society of Hematology (ASH), I write to urge your continued support for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) by supporting a funding increase of at least 7 percent in fiscal year (FY) 2010. Specifically, the Society would like to call your attention to two specific action steps to support this funding request: 1) submitting a programmatic request to the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies; 2) signing the "Dear Colleague" on NIH circulated by Representatives Markey and Reichert supporting an increase in funding of at least 7 percent for NIH in FY 2010.

1. Process to File Programmatic, Project and Report Language Requests

As you may know, this year House members will file their programmatic, project and report language requests for the FY 2010 LHHS appropriations bill online. The deadline for submitting all programmatic requests to the Subcommittee is Friday, April 3.

Of note is that Representatives are allowed to make as many requests as they wish among these three categories, and an appropriations request in one category does not come at the expense of a request in another, i.e. a programmatic request for NIH does not cancel out a project or a report language request.

ASH respectfully requests you to submit a programmatic request supporting an increase in funding of at least 7 percent for NIH in FY 2010. Below is a guide to complete the online form:

- **Under "Agency" select:** "HHS"
- **Under "Program" select:** "NIH Office of the Director"
(Please note that the drop-downs correspond to the way the LHHS bill is written, and so there is not an NIH-wide drop-down; the 27 ICs are listed as individual items as is the Office of Director.)
- **Under "Priority":** Ask that NIH be as high a priority as possible (the range is 1-99)
- **In the "Program Name" fill-in insert:** National Institutes of Health

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- **In the “Describe Program Request” fill-in insert:** NIH and the life-saving biomedical research it supports must keep up with the rising cost of medical research and prepare for the “post-stimulus” era. In 2011 and beyond NIH funding must not decline and should resume a steady, sustainable growth that will enable us to complete the President’s vision of doubling our investment in basic research over ten years. Consistent with the President’s proposal, we respectfully urge this Subcommittee to increase funding for NIH in Fiscal Year 2010 by at least 7 percent.
- **In the “Request Amount” fill-in insert:** \$32.4 billion

2. “Dear Colleague” on NIH

ASH strongly encourages you to sign the “Dear Colleague” letter in support of at least a 7 percent increase for NIH in FY 2010 that is being circulated by Representatives Ed Markey (D-MA) and Dave Reichert (R-WA). For more information or to co-sign the bipartisan letter, please contact Amit Mistry in Representative Markey’s office (Amit.Mistry@mail.house.gov) or Beth Nelson in Representative Reichert’s office (Beth.Nelson@mail.house.gov).

ASH appreciates the support Congress has shown for biomedical research with the funding provided for NIH in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), and urges your continued commitment in FY 2010 funding for NIH. Your support will make a huge difference to researchers and the patients we treat.

Sincerely,



Nancy Berliner, MD
President