TALKING POINTS for the NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

• Introduce yourself and your group.
  
  o The constituent(s) should begin the meeting by introducing him/herself, explain where you are from, what you do, they type of research you conduct, the kinds of patients you take care of, etc., and then let the others in the group introduce themselves.
  
  o Ask the person you are meeting with if he/she is familiar with hematology so you can gauge how to talk about the issues. If the staff person is not familiar with hematology, you can provide some examples of hematologic diseases/disorders and the patients you treat and major accomplishments of the field; if the staff person is familiar, you can briefly share some examples of exciting areas being explored and potential treatments and cures.

• Indicate the issues you want to discuss:

  1. NIH Funding
  
     • REQUEST: Provide NIH with sustained, robust, and predictable funding increases in FY 2020 and beyond.

       [The constituent in each meeting should take the lead on the issue, and identify some local examples or some short stories to share of why the request is important: How does NIH funding help the research you are doing? How has NIH-funded research helped the patients you treat?]

       ➢ Begin the meeting by thanking the staff members for the steps Congress has taken to help NIH regain some of its lost purchasing power after years of stagnant funding by providing four consecutive years of budget increases – including the most recent $2 billion increase in FY 2019.

       ➢ This boost in funding has allowed the NIH to continue all current research programs and begin a number of additional research studies and trials. However, sustained funding is necessary to continue these efforts. Sustained and predictable funding in fiscal year 2020 and beyond is essential to achieve long-term and permanent success in research.

       ➢ Explain why funding for NIH is so important to the Senator’s state/Representative’s district by sharing information on the amount of NIH funding that is awarded to the state and how that funding impacts the research you do and/or the patients you treat.

         o Health benefits to the American public as a result of investment in NIH.
         o Impact of a flat or declining budget on your research and patients.
         o Irreplaceable role of federal investment in research.
         o Economic benefits of NIH funding.