



THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF  
IMMUNOLOGISTS

**Statement of David D. Chaplin, M.D., Ph.D.,  
Chair of the Committee on Public Affairs of The American Association of Immunologists (AAI),  
Regarding President Trump's FY 2020 Budget Proposal**

**March 11, 2019**

AAI strongly opposes President Trump's proposed cut of more than 12% (~\$5 billion) to the budget of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) for fiscal year (FY) 2020. This cut would devastate important research intended to prevent, treat, and cure innumerable diseases, in part by funding 2,824 fewer Research Project Grants and cutting short the work of many talented and dedicated scientists.

AAI applauds Congress for four consecutive years of robust investment in NIH, enabling the agency to substantially invest in key research priorities such as cancer immunotherapy (using a patient's own immune system to fight cancer) and the development of a universal influenza vaccine (which has the potential to protect against most types of influenza). Sustained, predictable budget growth is necessary to ensure that NIH can continue to invest adequately in both biomedical research and the researchers who make it all possible, including the next generation of scientists. Such investment is only feasible if Congress once again raises the discretionary spending cap for FY 2020.

AAI urges Congress to continue its strong bipartisan support for NIH and other federal research agencies and to reject the President's imprudent budget proposal.