



ASBMT™

American Society for Blood and Marrow Transplantation

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Yesterday, President Trump released *America First: A Budget Blueprint to Make America Great Again*, a summary report of a proposed budget that includes a \$5.8 Billion dollar decrease in funding to the National Institutes of Health. While little additional detail is available in the proposal about the specific programmatic impact of these reductions, the report notes that the cuts are intended to create “consolidations and structural changes across NIH organizations and activities. The Budget also reduces administrative costs and rebalance Federal contributions to research funding. “

The American Society for Blood and Marrow Transplantation represents more than 2,200 health care professionals dedicated to improving the application and success of blood and marrow transplantation and related cellular therapies for the purpose of treating blood cancers and other life-threatening illnesses. The NIH is an instrumental partner for our members, who are actively researching ways to advance the science of cellular therapies. The National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute and National Cancer Institute, and the leadership of each institute, are critically important to our joint efforts in identifying new methods of preventing and treating the illnesses that impact the lives of our patients. The NCI and NHLBI respectively report spending 42 and 57 percent of their annual budgets on research, project and cooperative grants to scientists through competitive application processes. Reductions to the NIH budgets through President Trump’s proposal will directly and negatively impact the ability of these organizations to support necessary research in important areas of medicine.

On behalf of our members and the patients and families affected by hematologic malignancies, ASBMT is compelled to speak out against any proposed cuts to the National Institutes of Health that would affect the advancement of science and medicine in the United States. We welcome the opportunity to engage with our Legislative colleagues on this issue.

Krishna Komanduri, MD

President, American Society for Blood and Marrow Transplantation