

## **Investing in NIH is Important for the Health and Wellbeing of all Americans**

February 13, 2018 – The Academy for Radiology & Biomedical Imaging Research issued the following statement calling on Congress to reject the President’s proposed FY 2019 budget.

The return on investment in the NIH pays a lifetime of dividends in better health and quality of life for Americans, young and old. Yet, rather than strengthening the federal commitment to the NIH, the president’s FY 2019 budget proposal effectively would freeze funding for the agency at a level that falls below what Congress has proposed for even FY 2018.

Stagnant funding postpones hope for patients across the country and narrows the opportunity for breakthroughs in the biomedical research enterprise. In fact, when adjusting for inflation, the NIH already has lost nearly 20 percent of its purchasing power over the last decade. Thankfully, lawmakers in Congress on both sides of the aisle have rallied together to help the agency begin to regain lost ground by boosting the NIH budget in recent years.

The National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering (NIBIB), as well as many other Institutes and Centers at NIH, support imaging research at universities, medical schools, teaching hospitals, and other institutions in all 50 states, fueling local and regional economies by creating jobs and catalyzing new industries. For decades, the federal commitment to scientific discovery has strengthened our country’s competitiveness in a global market that is actively working to unseat the U.S. as the world’s leader in medical research. To keep America healthy and strong we must bolster, rather than undermine, the nation’s medical research capacity. Amazing NIH research breakthroughs have made it an agency that works and has the bipartisan support of Members of Congress.

It is imperative that we move forward not backwards now. For the United States to enhance its pursuit of cures – and to continue its global leadership in science and technology – the nation must continue the recent trajectory established by Congress and provide steady, meaningful funding increases above inflation within the base NIH budget. The Academy stands with its coalition partners, congressional supporters and the American people to continue to support sustainable, robust budget increases for NIH research. Without it, the advances we have come to expect and depend on from cutting edge medical research will be greatly harmed and life-saving work will be delayed or lost entirely. The Academy looks forward to working with lawmakers to realize this vision and bring patients one step closer to the assurance of better health in FY 2019 and beyond.