



For Immediate Release

March 11, 2019

Contact: Renee Cruca 202.347.5872

Academy for Radiology & Biomedical Imaging Research Statement on President Trump's 2020 Budget Request

The Academy for Radiology & Biomedical Imaging Research (The Academy) today issued the following statement regarding President Trump's Fiscal Year 2020 budget request of \$34.4 billion for the National Institutes of Health (NIH):

"The Academy is extremely concerned by President Trump's proposal to slash the budget of the NIH by \$5.4 billion, or 13.8 percent. Research sponsored and funded by NIH is key to improving the health and quality of life for all Americans. Robust funding for medical research also creates thousands of jobs across the country and helps advance the United States as a world leader in innovation. Slashing this funding would have a severe and negative impact on patients and on our national competitiveness. Like previous years, we are hopeful Congress will reject these shortsighted cuts, and instead invest wisely in research that benefits patients and our nation at large.

"Of particular concern to the Academy, this massive cut to NIH at large also includes a cut of \$53 million or 13.6 percent from the already underfunded National Institute for Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering (NIBIB). This would grind to a halt long-term efforts to improve imaging diagnostics and therapeutic interventions for the benefit of patients.

"The Academy is pleased, however, that the budget request includes a paragraph recognizing the promise of artificial intelligence and machine learning for catalyzing advances in basic and clinical research, and convening a new working group on the subject. That promise is why the Academy remains focused on facilitating development of a "diagnostic cockpit" that will help diagnosticians and clinicians leverage these advances for the benefit of patients.

"The Academy opposes President Trump's request to slash the budget of the National Science Foundation (NSF) by \$700 million, or 9 percent. NSF grantees conduct the basic scientific and technical research that have made possible groundbreaking advances in health care.

"The Academy urges Congress to act quickly enact a bipartisan budget agreement to raise statutory spending caps so robust health research spending is possible. We look

forward to working with Congress in the 2020 Appropriations process to ensure we take steps forward – not backward – to support health research.”

###

About the Academy for Radiology & Biomedical Imaging Research:

The Academy has been at the forefront of advocacy and policy on behalf of the medical imaging community for more than 20 years, campaigning tenaciously for federal research funding, pushing for changes in policy issues critical to imaging researchers, and promoting technical advances that can improve diagnostics and patient care. It was also the catalyst behind the creation of the National Institute for Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering research (NIBIB) at NIH and leads the effort for medical imaging research funding across all government agencies. The Academy, representing over 180,000 biomedical imaging researchers from major academic radiology departments across the country, also serves as a bridge to more than 100 patient advocacy groups and leading imaging manufacturers that share an interest in high-value imaging research.