



Improving Human Life by Advancing
the Field of Transplantation

**AST BOARD OF DIRECTORS
2015-2016**

PRESIDENT

James S. Allan, MD, MBA
Massachusetts General Hospital

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Anil Chandraker, MD, FRCP
Brigham and Women's Hospital

IMMEDIATE PAST-PRESIDENT

Kenneth A. Newell, MD, PhD
Emory University

SECRETARY

Ronald G. Gill, PhD
University of Colorado, Denver

TREASURER

Thomas C. Pearson, MD, DPhil
Emory University

COUNCILORS-AT-LARGE

Sharon M. Bartosh, MD
University of Wisconsin

Richard N. Formica, Jr., MD
Yale University School of Medicine

John S. Gill, MD, MS
University of British Columbia

Deepali Kumar, MD, MSc, FRCP (C)
University of Toronto

Josh Levitsky, MD, MS
Northwestern University

Larry B. Melton, MD, PhD
Baylor Medical Center, Dallas

David P. Nelson, MD
Integris Baptist Medical Center of Oklahoma

Jesse D. Schold, PhD, M.Stat, M.Ed.
Cleveland Clinic

Alexander C. Wiseman, MD
University of Colorado, Denver

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
Libby McDannell, CAE

December 4, 2015

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Chairman, U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski
Ranking Member, U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Chairman, U.S. Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on
Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member, U.S. Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on
Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies

The Honorable Harold Rogers
Chairman
U.S. House of Representatives
Appropriations Committee

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Ranking Member
U.S. House of Representatives
Appropriations Committee

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
U.S. House of Representatives
Appropriations Subcommittee on
Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
U.S. House of Representatives
Appropriations Subcommittee on
Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies

NATIONAL OFFICE

1120 Route 73, Suite 200 • Mt. Laurel, NJ 08054
856.439.9986 • Fax: 856.439.9982 • info@myAST.org • www.myAST.org

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

William Applegate, Director of Government Relations • Bryan Cave, LLP
1155 F Street, NW • Washington, DC 20004
202.258.4989 • bill.applegate@bryancave.com

**AMERICAN TRANSPLANT
CONGRESS 2016**

June 11-15, 2016
Boston, MA

Page 2

RE: NIH Final Funding Level for FY 2016

Dear Chairmen and Ranking Members:

On behalf of the American Society of Transplantation (AST), representing a majority of medical professionals engaged in the fields of solid organ transplant patient care and biomedical research, we strongly applaud the significant investments already approved for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) earlier this year by both the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives Appropriations Committees. Our Society is grateful for the early bipartisan and bicameral support expressed for NIH in this 114th Congress.

As the U.S. Congress continues to develop final appropriations legislation before the current continuing resolution expires on December 11, 2015, the AST respectfully requests your support for a FY 2016 NIH funding level of at least \$32 billion, equal to the level approved earlier this year by the U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee.

The AST continues to believe that science and innovation are essential if we are to continue to improve our nation's health, sustain our leadership in medical research, and remain competitive in today's global information and innovation-based economy. Despite recent increases provided in each of the past two fiscal years, the NIH budget remains lower than it was in FY 2012 in actual dollars. This continued erosion of the NIH budget squanders invaluable scientific opportunities, discourages young scientists, jeopardizes our economic future, and threatens medical progress and continued improvements in our nation's health.

NIH is the world's premier supporter of merit-reviewed, investigator-initiated basic research. Ensuring a steady pipeline of basic research discoveries and sustaining the translational efforts necessary to improve the detection, diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of disease requires a sustained investment in NIH. Our country still has the most robust medical research capacity in the world, but that capacity simply cannot weather repeated blows such as persistent below-inflation funding levels and sequestration cuts, which jeopardize our competitive edge in an increasingly innovation-based global marketplace.

The current trend of insufficient funding for NIH has a serious, wide-ranging impact on our nation's health and our capacity for medical innovation in the 21st century. If we are serious about breaking new ground in our understanding of complex diseases and seeking to accelerate the speed with which new cures, treatments and vaccines are developed, then it's absolutely essential that we increase funding for medical research at NIH.

While the AST understands the difficult fiscal challenges you face, we urge you to prioritize the important role that NIH plays in biomedical research and economic growth by working to fund the agency at an annual level of at least \$32 billion.

Page 3

Thank you in advance for your consideration of our request and for the meaningful impact such support will make in the lives of millions of Americans, including future patients awaiting a life-saving donor organ.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J S Allan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "J" and "S".

James S. Allan, MD
President, American Society of Transplantation