Claire E. Sterk, PhD
PRESIDENT

April 2, 2018

The Honorable Hank Johnson
2240 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Johnson:

Thank you for the opportunity to share Emory’s appropriations priorities for FY2019. On behalf of the leadership team at Emory, I write to express our gratitude for your support of Emory’s mission. We are pleased by the continued commitment you and your colleagues have made to supporting the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and maintaining America as the global leader in biomedical innovation. Emory researchers and physicians are already helping to drive this discovery and innovation forward. For example, Emory’s Winship Cancer Institute will open the Emory Proton Therapy Center, Georgia’s first proton center, later this year. This treatment will provide patients with access to state-of-the-art cancer treatment with fewer side effects than traditional radiation. As the only National Cancer Institute Comprehensive Cancer Center in Georgia, Winship exemplifies the Woodruff Health Sciences Center’s tripartite mission of research, education, and patient care.

Emory is proud to partner with the federal government. We leverage federal funding in our own research endeavors as well as in our education and training programs. We also supplement federal dollars to develop cutting-edge research that improves our lives both today and, we hope, in the future -- research that is either too basic or risky for the private sector. In FY2017, Emory researchers received $628 million dollars in total research funding; $384 million of that funding came from the federal government; the remaining 39 percent came from non-federal sources. In turn, Emory’s Woodruff Health Sciences Center invested $125 million in research costs unrecovered from sponsors last year. Across all our schools and colleges, Emory University invested over $151 million in research costs unrecovered from sponsors last year. These investments range from covering unreimbursed indirect costs to University funding for internal research awards.

Emory also leverages financial aid dollars: last year alone, Emory contributed $304 million to our students’ financial needs, while the federal government provided $143 million for our students’ financial aid funding. In addition, Emory annually contributes an estimated $11 million to supplement the training necessary for the next generation of physicians. For the past few years, Emory Healthcare has paid the entire amount to fund 80 residents above the Graduate Medical Education cap. This includes funding of salaries and benefits associated with resident education, medical malpractice insurance, and administrative costs.

I recognize that you have many competing priorities as well as a responsibility to spend taxpayer dollars wisely. I firmly believe that investments in research, education, and training are an efficient and powerful use of federal dollars. All of us here at Emory hope that you will work to ensure that these commitments are sustained. Thank you for your support of Emory University and its FY2019 appropriations priorities.

Sincerely,

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To continue to create jobs, advance public health and improve quality of life, Emory supports at least $38.4 billion in FY2019 for the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Biomedical research funded by NIH and performed at Emory assures U.S. leadership in the life sciences and helps reduce healthcare costs by treating or curing disease. In FY2017, Emory received $320.7 million from the NIH in competitive awards grants, comprising 83 percent of the total federal dollars awarded to Emory.

Emory is thankful for Congress’s rejection of the proposed 10 percent cap on indirect costs for NIH research. Emory already contributes $30.5 million towards the facility and administrative (F&A) costs of NIH research grants. Reducing reimbursed to 10 percent would equal a cut of $84.6 million which would have a devastating impact on the research conducted at Emory and across the country. We encourage Congress to continue to fully support research including reimbursement for F&A costs.

Emory also strongly supports continued funding for the Brain Research through Advancing Innovative Neurotechnologies (BRAIN) initiative, including expanded effort to take advantage of opportunities provided by nonhuman primate studies to offer insights into the workings of the human brain and pave the way towards new therapies to treat diseases like Alzheimer’s disease, Parkinson’s disease, autism, epilepsy, and stroke. In addition, we call your attention to two important initiatives, representing an important opportunity and leadership role for Emory, in the areas of antibiotic resistance and precision medicine.

Emory is a leader in HIV/AIDS research, and while much has been accomplished, the disease is still a major threat locally and globally. The Southeastern U.S., where 35% of the U.S. population lives, accounted for 50% of new infections in 2014. Georgia ranks third in the lifetime risk of HIV infection with CDC estimates showing that 1 in 51 Georgians will be diagnosed with HIV in their lifetime if nothing changes. The Emory Center for AIDS Research (CFAR), one of 21 NIH-funded CFARs, is committed to ending AIDS. We can only accomplish this goal with the full commitment of the federal government; otherwise, the unprecedented goals of previous years will erode.

Finally, Emory supports expanded funding to develop novel strategies for the development of TB vaccines in order to combat a disease that continues to affect millions worldwide. In 2016, Georgia had the sixth highest number of new TB cases and the tenth highest TB case rate among the 50 states of the U.S.

Our global dominance in life sciences and the preparation of future scientists is increasingly under threat. If present funding trends continue, China’s financial commitment to biomedical research will be twice that of the United States in the next five years.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) works with partners throughout the nation and world to monitor health, detect and investigate health problems, and conduct research to enhance prevention. The CDC develops sound public health policies, implements prevention strategies, promotes healthy behaviors, fosters safe and healthy environments, and provides leadership and training. Emory supports at least the FY2017 total program level of $7.9 billion for the CDC in FY2019. Emory received over $20 million in direct CDC funding in FY2017, and launched several vaccine developments, treatments and education collaborations.

The CDC has developed and sustained many vital partnerships with public and private entities that improve the health of the American people. It also has strengthened disease prevention and control programs overseas including an important initiative through IANPHI’s U.S. Office at Emory University (the International Association of National Public Health Institutes). This partnership organization has assisted over 45 low-resource countries in creating or developing their own CDGs to detect and respond to disease threats. Through a partnership among IANPHI, the CDC, and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, 20 more countries will develop CDGs by the end of 2018. We hope that the CDC will continue this successful collaboration with Emory to assist in building a public health infrastructure in developing countries.
In another collaboration, CDC worked with Emory’s Department of Emergency Medicine to establish the Cardiac Arrest Registry to Enhance Survival (CARES). CARES automates the linkage between emergency medical services and hospitals to create a single record for an out-of-hospital cardiac arrest (OHCA) event. Registry data collection is critical to improving patient care and survival rates, and lowering healthcare costs. CARES became privately funded in 2012 due to federal budget cuts at CDC. Emory would like to see this private-public partnership reinstated. **Emory supports $6 million from the CDC budget to fund the CARES program in FY2019.**

The Injury Prevention Research Center at Emory (IPRCE) as well as other CDC-funded injury control research centers, provide a critical function for injury prevention across the US. Injury remains the number one cause of death among persons less than 44 years old. The amount of federal funding for this critical initiative and the number of supported centers have been in decline for several years. During the same time period, the opioid epidemic has escalated and IPRCE and other injury centers have a leading role in mitigating the damage. **Emory supports $11 million for IPRCE and a return to 11 funded centers in the United States.**

**Special Pathogens Institute**
As a result of the immense success that Emory University had in for caring for patients with Ebola and Lassa Fever, Emory University and partners are proposing the Special Pathogens Institute. This institute will become the national healthcare’s “test kitchen” and will look at the care simulations, human factors, and personal protective equipment able to keep healthcare workers safe and be used effectively in the healthcare environment. This focus will lead the national healthcare system into the front lines of caring for patients in a clean and safe way in order to prevent healthcare-associated infections. This Institute will work with federal, regional, and local partners to provide a multi-disciplinary team dedicated to conducting innovative research, validating clinical practice and technology, and translating this research into practice—all of this to improve patient care and health care worker safety. **In FY2019, we seek permanent annual funding of $5.0 million for the Special Pathogens Institute.**

**Assistant Secretary of Preparedness and Response**
The Department of Health and Human Services’ Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) is a leader in preparing the nation and its communities to respond to, and recover from, public health emergencies and medical disasters. Working closely with the CDC, ASPR focuses on preparedness planning and response; building federal emergency medical operational capabilities; and grants to strengthen the capabilities of hospitals and health care systems to minimize the health impacts of disasters and public health emergencies.

One such grant is the foundation for Emory’s partnership with the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha and Bellevue Hospital in New York City. The National Ebola Training and Education Center (NETEC), coordinated by these three health systems with proven special pathogens and infectious disease experience, seeks to increase the capability of our nation to safely and effectively manage individuals with suspected and confirmed special pathogens. Recognizing the partnership’s effectiveness, the $12 million grant awarded in 2015 to establish NETEC was doubled to $24 million to expand services and create a special pathogens research network. **In FY2019, we seek permanent annual funding of $9.5 million for NETEC in order to maintain a sustainable infrastructure and culture of readiness to manage special pathogen incidents across the United States’ public health and healthcare delivery systems.**

**Hospital Preparedness Program**
ASPR’s Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP) has played an important role in bolstering communities’ preparedness for public health emergencies. Unfortunately, funding for the program has steadily declined nearly every year since its creation in 2002, with FY2016 funding at $255 million – only half the funding support in the early years of the program. This trend demonstrates that even dedicated funding for preparedness activities can be unreliable. Expanded and stable support for HPP will be an important component of any comprehensive preparedness strategy. **Emory supports $300 million for HPP in FY2019 within the Office of the HHS Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response, with a portion of funding directed to hospitals for preparedness efforts.**
Public Health Training Center
In order to ensure that the current and future public health workforce has the skills needed to keep our communities healthy and thriving, the Region IV Public Health Training Center (R-IV PHTC) provides needed trainings at no cost to the public health workforce and places up to 20 public health students a year with internships (field placements) at agencies serving medically underserved areas. Funded by HRSA and headquartered at Emory University, the R-IV PHTC works on behalf of the public health workforce in Georgia and the other seven states in HHS Region IV (AL, FL, KY, MS, NC, SC, TN). Trainings provide public health workers with skills needed to respond to chronic conditions (e.g., diabetes, obesity, hypertension, cardiovascular health); ensure the safety of our communities through emergency preparedness and response; improve access to healthcare for those in rural communities; and address emerging issues such as Ebola, Zika and the opioid epidemic. Trainings also prepare the workforce to partner with other sectors to improve health and therefore, the economic vitality of the community. Field placements provide opportunities for the next generation of public health workers to understand the value of working on behalf of underserved populations and communities. In its first three years of funding, the R-IV PHTC has offered 410 trainings providing 1,133 hours of instruction to 22,495 participants for a total of 74,449 person-hours of instruction. Additionally, 58 internships provided 13,614 hours of experience to public health students, which is the equivalent of 6.55 fulltime public health employees. In FY2019, we seek $22 million for the Public Health Workforce and Preventive Medicine line item in the HRSA budget, which includes $9.86 million for the Public Health Training Center Program.

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality
Complementing the medical research supported by NIH, the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) is the lead federal agency charged with supporting research to improve healthcare quality, reduce costs, advance patient safety, decrease medical errors, and broaden access to essential services. Emory believes in the value of health services research designed to improve the quality of healthcare by translating research into measurable improvements in the healthcare system. Such research is critically important as our nation continues to strive to provide high quality, efficient healthcare. Emory supports at least $454 million for AHRQ in FY2019, consistent with the FY2010 level for the agency adjusted for inflation.

Title VIII
Title VIII of the Public Health Service Act authorizes a variety of grants for students, programs, and institutions to improve the racial and ethnic diversity, geographic distribution, and quality of the nursing work force. The pending retirement of thousands of practicing nurses will collide with our nation's growing need for healthcare access, safety, and quality. As our healthcare delivery system undergoes rapid and dramatic changes, an appropriate supply and distribution of nurses has never been more essential to the public's health. Of particular importance is the preparation of advance practice nurses to respond to these current and emerging challenges and ensure that all Americans have access to appropriate timely health services. Over the last 45 years, Title VIII programs have addressed each aspect of nursing shortages: education, practice, retention, and recruitment. Emory supports $244 million for Title VIII.

Nursing continues to play a critical role in the generation of science that provides the evidence for interventions that promote and restore health. It is critical that nursing be recognized as a component of the biomedical research program of NIH, therefore we support $160 million for the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR) for FY2019.

Department of Education
Student Aid Programs
Emory recognizes the critical role that federal student aid programs play in making college affordable for students. We believe it is important that the federal government, states, and the academic community work together to ensure that college remains affordable. Federal student aid, an essential part of this effort coupled with Emory’s significant institutional commitment, ensure that we attract all capable minds regardless of ability to pay.

Pell Grants: Emory urges Congress to support the scheduled increase in the maximum Pell Grant award
to $5,920, which comprises both discretionary and mandatory funding. We encourage Congress to protect the future of Pell by ensuring that any Pell surplus remains in the program. This would ensure a reliable source of grant aid for the students most in need, thereby increasing access to and the affordability of higher education. We are committed to addressing the growing costs of the Pell Grant program in order to place the program on a more sustainable funding path. A total of 1,465 Emory students received a Pell Grant last school year, translating into $6.742 million in federal investment via Pell Grants during the 2016-2017 academic year.

Year-round Pell was eliminated in FY2011 under severe budget constraints. Reinstating this provision will allow students to persist to completion without losing momentum over the summer months. The existing surplus in the Pell Grant program allows for the restoration of the year-round Pell, and we urge you to include this provision in FY2019 appropriations.

Campus-Based Programs: Emory strongly supports campus-based aid programs, including Work-Study and the Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (SEOG). Emory supports restoring funding to these programs to the pre-sequester FY2012 level of at least $990 million for Work-Study and $757 million for SEOG. By law, universities match one-to-three the federal SEOG funds, multiplying the federal investment in low-income students. SEOG allows us to help plug the holes for financially needy students while the work-study program encourages financially disadvantaged students to develop strong work habits. Emory students garnered 1,440 FWS awards, translating into over $2 million, and earned 320 SEOG awards, translating into $1.210 million, for the 2016-2017 school year. While final allocations are not yet available, Emory anticipates that our total campus-based funding levels will increase by 5% in the coming year.

Graduate Education: Emory encourages Congress to provide at least the pre-sequester FY2012 funding levels of $31 million in FY2019 for the Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need (GAANN). This program helps ensure a strong pipeline of talented experts, educators, and new leaders who will help to meet the demands of our 21st century workforce. We support including the arts, humanities, and social sciences as eligible fields for grant competition in FY19. In the longer term, we want to work to build direct support for graduate students in the humanities.

International Education Programs
Emory urges Congress to support at least $76 million for the Department of Education's Title VI International Education and Foreign Language programs in FY2019. Title VI programs play an important role in supporting our nation's long-term national security, global leadership, and economic competitiveness. Rebuilding the number of National Resource Centers is particularly important. Historically, these centers have played a vital role in U.S. diplomacy, and they are important to maintaining a high level of global engagement in the future. The nation needs a steady supply of graduates with expertise in less commonly taught languages, world areas, and transnational trends.

Public Service Loan Forgiveness
Emory supports the preservation of the Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) Program. For students entering full-time public service after graduation, the PSLF Program allows graduates to earn forgiveness by dedicating 10 years in the public sector and eases the combination of student debt and low wages. After 10 years, the average graduate and professional student borrower will have repaid 91% of the amount they originally borrowed, and the balance forgiven will be mostly interest. Emory supports our students wishing to pursue careers that are integral to the health and well-being of our society.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
Each year for the past several years, Emory University has received funding from the Department of Defense (DoD) and its affiliated agencies for a variety of projects, ranging from research on infectious diseases to posttraumatic stress disorder and neurological conditions. In one example, Emory, The University of Georgia, and Georgia Tech received support from the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) to study malaria infections. In FY2017, Emory researchers received $14 million in funding from these agencies. Emory will continue to apply for grant funding in response to DoD funding opportunities that match our research expertise.
Defense Health Agency
Emory's Winship Cancer Institute is part of the Oncology Research Information Exchange Network (ORIEN), an alliance of major academic cancer centers that all use a single protocol for long-term health surveillance of cancer patients in order to correlate patterns in cancer incidence, treatment response, and survivorship with genetic information and demographic data. The ORIEN precision medicine initiative is expected to benefit cancer patients in Georgia and around the nation. The John P. Murtha Cancer Center at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center is a valuable member of ORIEN, and we anticipate this partnership will help to improve the treatment and outcomes of patients in the military health system. Emory strongly encourages continued and increased support for the Murtha Cancer Center's participation in ORIEN, allowing for continued expansion of efforts to deliver enhanced cancer treatment and improved outcomes for all service members and their families.

COMMERCe-JUSTICE-SCIENCE
National Science Foundation
Emory supports a funding level of at least $8 billion for the National Science Foundation (NSF) in FY2019. Fulfilling this request would demonstrate a strong commitment to the nation’s science and innovation enterprise and STEM education programs that are necessary to foster continued American innovation and competitiveness. Sustained funding ensures continued support for core NSF scientific research and education programs. Emory received over $15 million in direct NSF funding in FY2017.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration.
Emory supports at the FY19 budget request of $19.5 billion for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). Emory is excited to partner with NASA to support astronaut health on long durations mission. Emory specifically will be studying radiation induced lung tumorigenesis and the effect of galactic cosmic ray exposure and its contribution to cancer risk. With a multi-year contract of nearly $18 million across eight institutions, Emory will be working with colleagues around the nation on improving the health of astronauts.

INTERIOR
National Endowment for the Humanities
Emory supports a funding level of at least $155 million for the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) in FY2019. Our country's long-term success in meeting economic, global, and national security challenges depends on understanding not only technological and scientific complexities, but broader social and international issues as well. Programs funded by the NEH are vital to ensuring that America can compete successfully in a global economy and advance sound public policy to address the challenges of the 21st century. NEH programs stimulate the creativity and innovation that have helped our nation provide global leadership and underlie the cultural intelligence that buttresses successful diplomacy. Recent surveys of employers emphasize the need for communication skills and cross-cultural competencies — which are the strengths of the humanities; and recent data released by the American Academy of Arts and Sciences demonstrates that humanities graduates enjoy employment and earnings outcomes similar to other fields. Emory received $113,535 in NEH funding in FY2017.

National Endowment for the Arts
Emory supports a funding level of at least $150 million for the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). Two important NEA projects can be found on Emory's campus, the Jimmy Carter Presidential Library and the Carlos Museum. Across Emory's campus, individual faculty members like Poet Jericho Brown and artists who appear on Emory's Schwartz Center for the Performing Arts are NEA grant holders. The importance of the Arts in communicating complex ideas to the public cannot be underestimated. Programs and Artists funded by the NEA are vital to ensuring that America can remain a vital cultural presence in the nation and in the world, creating opportunities through its funding for artists across a myriad of disciplines to make the works of art that will define our cultural heritage for future generations.

STATE-FOREIGN OPERATIONS
Humphrey Fellowship Program
The Humphrey Program brings young and mid-career professionals from designated countries to the United States for a year of non-degree graduate-level study, leadership development, and professional collaboration with U.S. counterparts. Exchange programs contribute to international scholarship. Emory has been a Humphrey Fellowship Program campus in Public Health for 24 years. We have had 250 Fellows from over 100 countries participate. Humphrey Fellows are an integral part of Emory’s commitment to introduce our students to international affairs. *Emory received $47,733 in federal support of its 2017-2018 Humphrey Fellows.*

Fulbright Scholarship Program
Sponsored by the Department of State, the Fulbright Program provides funding for students, scholars, teachers, and professionals to travel abroad and undertake graduate study, advanced research, university teaching, and teaching in elementary and secondary schools. Emory has a very strong history of faculty and students winning these awards, with over 100 Emory winners in the last 10 years alone. Emory’s Laney Graduate School actively encourages its students and faculty to apply for Fulbright-Hays awards and publicizes the winners widely whenever our students and faculty win.