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February 24, 2021

Rob Fairweather
Acting Director
Office of Management and Budget
Executive Office of the President

Dear Mr. Fairweather,

On behalf of the Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSAs), I urge the Administration to prioritize key infectious diseases issues in the President's Budget Request for Fiscal Year (FY) 2022, including antimicrobial resistance, public health infrastructure to address ongoing needs and prepare for future outbreaks, biomedical research (including the next generation of infectious diseases researchers) and global responses to infectious diseases. IDSAs represents more than 12,000 infectious diseases physicians, scientists, public health practitioners and other healthcare professionals devoted to patient care, prevention, public health, education and research in the area of infectious diseases.

Antimicrobial Resistance: Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is rendering many of our current antimicrobial drugs ineffective, leaving increasing numbers of patients with few or no treatment options, and jeopardizing modern medical procedures that rely upon safe and effective antibiotics, including cancer chemotherapy, transplantation, caesarian sections, other surgeries, treatment of serious wounds and burns, and care of complex patients — including those with COVID-19 who develop secondary infections. Antibiotics are central to preparedness, as nearly any mass casualty event can be significantly complicated by secondary infections. We echo the call of more than [50 organizations](#) urging the Administration to prioritize our national response to AMR. Increased resources are urgently needed for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to help reduce inappropriate antibiotic use, improve surveillance and data collection, and prevent resistant infections; for the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) to increase AMR research; and for the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA) and Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) to strengthen antibiotic innovation.

Public Health: As the COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated, a strong public health infrastructure is critical to our nation's well-being, and there is no substitute for preparedness. We recommend an infusion of new funding to strengthen our public health system, including growing our public health workforce in a sustainable fashion. In particular, increased funding is necessary to strengthen our immunizations infrastructure, increase immunization uptake and address infectious diseases associated with the opioid epidemic.

Infectious Diseases and HIV Workforce: The ID and HIV workforces have been shrinking despite the crucial role they play in responding to public health emergencies that include the COVID-19 pandemic and in driving treatment, diagnostics, and vaccines innovations. Nearly 200 million Americans live in areas with little or no access to an infectious diseases physician, according to [Where Is the ID in COVID-19?](#), a study published on June 4, 2020, in the *Annals of Internal Medicine*. Increased resources are needed to fortify the ID and HIV workforces to ensure that patients have access to lifesaving ID expertise to address the full range of infectious diseases, combat COVID-19, and prepare for future public health emergencies.

Biomedical Research: A strong infectious diseases research workforce is critical to developing the tools we need to prevent, detect, and treat current and future infectious diseases threats. We recommend increased funding for NIAID to expand, train and diversify the infectious diseases scientific workforce. We also recommend increased funding for NIAID to support research for infectious diseases threats, including emerging infectious diseases, AMR, HIV, tuberculosis (TB) and influenza.

Global Health: Infectious pathogens do not respect national borders. Increased funding is needed to expand global health security activities at CDC and USAID to ensure we are better prepared to prevent, detect, and respond to infectious diseases. The COVID-19 pandemic has strained global responses to HIV, TB and malaria, and new resources are needed for PEPFAR, USAID and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB, and Malaria to regain lost ground in controlling these infectious diseases worldwide.

Thank you for the opportunity to highlight key domestic and global infectious diseases priorities. We urge the Administration to request the significant funding increases necessary to revitalize the U.S. approach to infectious diseases. The attached document provides more detailed information on specific programs and activities for which we recommend increased funding. If you have any questions or if we can assist you in any way, please contact us through IDSA Director of Government Relations, Lisa Cox, at lcox@idsociety.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Barbara D. Alexander". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Barbara D. Alexander, M.D., MHS, FIDSA
President, IDSA