

ACTS ASSOCIATION FOR CLINICAL AND TRANSLATIONAL SCIENCE

Connection

March Issue 1

Translational Science 2018

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Join the brightest minds from across the spectrum of translational research April 19-21, 2018 in Washington, DC.

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Journal of Clinical and Translational Science



The fourth issue of the Journal of Clinical and Translational Science has been published. [Volume 1 / Issue 5, October 2017](#) is now available for viewing!

JCTS's mission is to provide a forum for the rapid communication of topics of interest and relevance to the large and diverse community of clinical and translational scientists with the goal of improving the efficiency with which health needs inform research and new diagnostics, therapies, and preventive measures reach the public. The Association for Clinical and Translational Science has partnered with the American Physician Scientists Association (APSA) and the Clinical Research Forum (CRF) to support the growth and development of JCTS.

Submit your article today to be featured in future issues of JCTS!

News From the Hill

News From the Hill: February 16, 2018

The beginning of February was a productive and hectic time for lawmakers on Capitol Hill. Following months of protracted negotiations, lawmakers reached a bipartisan budget deal. The now-enacted measure included:

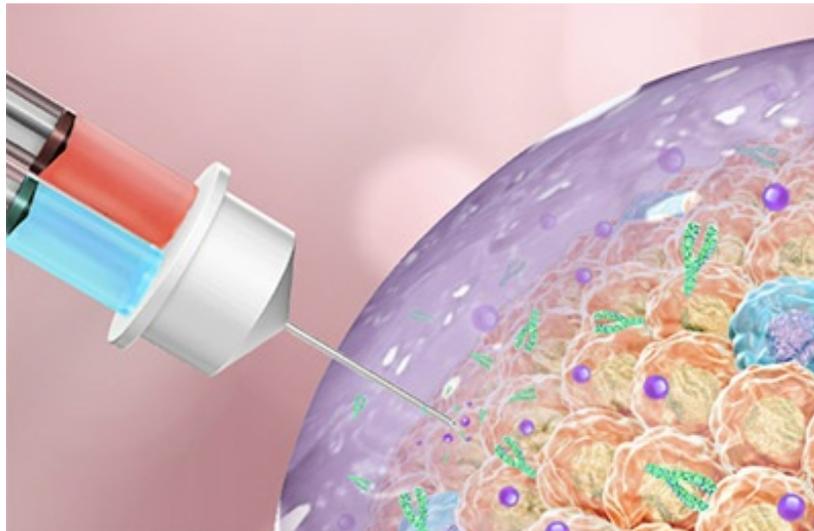
- Significant increases to both the defense and non-defense spending caps for Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 and FY 2019.
- A Continuing Resolution (CR) to keep federal programs operating until March 23rd as lawmakers spend the time in the interim using the enhanced spending authority to finalize the annual appropriations bills for FY 2018.
- An extension of the debt ceiling through March 2nd of 2019.
- A ten year (total) extension of the Children's Health Insurance Program; an extension of funding for Community Health Centers, Teaching Health Centers, and the National Health Service Corps; and \$3 billion for FY 2018 and \$3 billion for FY2019 to fight the opioid epidemic.

The breakthrough on the congressional spending deal happened to coincide with the release of the administration's non-binding FY 2019 budget request to Congress, and the two points of view are far from alignment. As Congress works to add funding for medical research and patient care programs, the administration once again calls for steep cuts. While the budget request calls for significant new funding to combat opioids, cuts are made in other areas. The proposal again eliminates the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality and consolidates activities within the National Institutes of Health, which would now have three new Institutes. Further, a recommendation is made to reduce the cost of research by capping the percentage of an investigator's salary that can be paid with grant funds at \$152,000. Deep cuts are also proposed for entitlement programs, such as Medicare and Medicaid, along with "reforms" that would further undermine patient access to care.

Members of Congress from both parties were quick to comment that the budget request is largely ceremonial. Key congressional leaders added that their current priority is completing the FY 2018 appropriations process and enacting funding increases for the National Institutes of Health and related agencies. Only after the FY 2018 process is complete, will lawmakers quickly pivot to FY 2019 appropriations (which should be relatively smooth considering the budget deal in place).

See the full newsletter on the [ACTS Advocacy Page](#).

Translational Science Today



New therapeutic gel shows promise against cancerous tumors

The lab of Zhen Gu, PhD, in the joint UNC-NC State biomedical engineering department developed a biodegradable hydrogel scaffold system to release chemotherapeutic and immunotherapeutic drugs at the tumor site.

[Read more](#)

news.tracs.unc.edu

Member News

Engaging our Community in Inflammatory Breast Cancer (IBC) Research and Awareness

As part of Duke University's goal to facilitate collaborations in inflammatory breast cancer (IBC) research and outreach efforts, the consortium is holding an introductory/brainstorming meeting to bring together basic, translational, and clinical researchers, practicing physicians, patients, advocates, and community stakeholders. They expect ideas and partnerships from this program to develop a strategic plan framework to translate research into action and create patient and clinician/practitioner education and dissemination tools to increase IBC awareness in North Carolina, which we have termed "[Connect NC for IBC](#)".

Do you know someone who deserves to be recognized for outstanding or groundbreaking work? Send ACTS your story to be highlighted in future versions of ACTS Connection. **Submit stories to:** info@actscience.org.

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