



COALITION *for* HEALTH FUNDING

During the past decade, budget cuts in Washington, D.C have hurt every facet of American health. In 2014, the Coalition for Health Funding published *Faces of Austerity: How Budget Cuts Hurt Americans' Health* to document these funding challenges. Recently, the Coalition for Health Funding members have collected five brand new stories on the impact of budget cuts on medical research and researchers. Below are the highlights.

TO ACCESS THE FULL STORIES, SCAN THE QR CODES PROVIDED OR VISIT WWW.CUTSHURT.ORG

BUDGET CUTS THREATEN PROMISING BLOOD RESEARCH

features Renhao Li, Associate Professor of Department of Pediatrics and Division of Hematology/Oncology at Emory University School of Medicine in Atlanta, GA. Dr. Li's research into blood disease was almost ended due to budget cuts until the American Society for Hematology stepped in.

“Federal budget cuts could have halted the ongoing work of my laboratory and the jobs of my research staff. I am very grateful for the ASH Bridge Grant, which allowed us to continue our work to improve the utility of platelets and platelet therapy for patients while we awaited renewal of our NIH grant.”

– Dr. Li



HEART DISEASE RESEARCH IN JEOPARDY

tells the story of Steven R. Houser, Director of the Cardiovascular Research Center, Department of Physiology at Temple University and President-Elect of the American Heart Association. As a result of austerity measures, many researchers have had their grants reduced, leaving them with the difficult decision to cut staff or research. Some like Dr. Houser fear that continued budget cuts could lead to a country wide “brain drain.”

“We have the best tools we’ve ever had to make rapid progress towards developing novel therapies. It’s not even close to 30 years ago. I call it the best of times and the worst of times. We have so many wonderful things we can do right now, but we end up in this political climate.”

– Dr. Houser





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CUTS TO KIDNEY RESEARCH HURT OUR WALLETS AND OUR HEALTH

features Dr. Benjamin L. Margolis, MD, Associate Chair for Research, Internal Medicine, University of Michigan Medical School, Ann Arbor, Michigan. Dr. Margolis discusses how budget cuts have impacted both senior researchers and students pursuing research careers.

“Highly productive senior investigators are being forced to end their research careers because of research funding cuts. While disruptive and discouraging to senior investigators, the impact on junior investigators is barely imaginable.”
– Dr. Margolis



PHYSICIANS' ABILITY TO COMBAT RARE DISEASES HAMPERED BY FUNDING REDUCTIONS

features Dr. Louis Weiss MD, MPH, Professor of Medicine and Pathology, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Bronx, New York. Dr. Weiss discusses the impact of budget cuts on identifying and studying opportunistic pathogens, which are important to understanding a wide range of clinical diseases.

“There is a real and present danger that extinction of expertise may be occurring due to changes and fluctuations in funding... loss of such expertise, which is already limited by the relatively small size of research communities, could promote the extinction of critical resources.”
– Dr. Weiss



AVOIDING MISSED OPPORTUNITIES IN LUPUS RESEARCH

takes a look at trust between communities and researchers and how that trust is hurt when funding falls short. Dr. Diane Kamen, an Associate Professor of Medicine in the Division of Rheumatology at the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston, South Carolina faces this reality as her research struggles to attract funding on understanding the origins of Lupus in a community of African Americans in South Carolina.

“Everyone was excited to start, but we didn't have the funding in that moment to embark...A lack of funding might delay us a year or two, but it's not just a delay. We might lose the trust and confidence from the people we're studying.”
– Dr. Kamen

