NIH Budget Cut By $5.8 Billion

President Trump's fiscal 2018 budget proposes cutting funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) by $5.8 billion, with the steepest cuts affecting NIH's National Cancer Institute. The budget also eliminates the Fogarty International Center and folds the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) into NIH. Despite steep cuts to NIH, the institutes will hold onto the $496 million in fiscal 2018 funding authorized by 21st Century Cures, which will go to fund the Precision Medicine Initiative; Brain Research through Advancing Innovative Neurotechnologies (BRAIN) Initiative; Beau Biden Cancer Moonshot; and advancement of regenerative medicine.

Trump's NIH budget appears committed to the Cancer Moonshot and flags cancer moonshot priorities -- including developing new cancer technologies, pediatric cancer and enhanced data sharing — as a focus for fiscal 2018 research. "NIH released funding opportunity announcements related to these priorities in FY 2017, and more are planned for the future," the budget brief states. However, it remains unclear what impact a $1 billion cut for the center housing the moonshot may affect the initiative.

The budget in brief states funding for regenerative medicine authorized by 21st Century Cures Act will also continue to be awarded alongside FDA "to support clinical research using adult stem cells, which could open doors for possible new treatments." Cures authorized $10 billion in funding for regenerative medicine research in fiscal 2018.