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Statement by the American Society of Clinical Oncology On President Obama's FY 2012 Budget Request

Alexandria, VA – The American Society of Clinical Oncology commends President Obama for his commitment to the health of this nation and to patients around the world who benefit from U.S. medical innovation.

"Clear winners in the President's budget are patients who rely on continued medical research and continuity of care," said ASCO President Dr. George Sledge Jr. "Postponing a cut in the Medicare physician payment formula, known as the Sustainable Growth Rate, will help physicians remain in the Medicare system and care for seniors for the next two years. However, the ongoing uncertainty for patients and physicians calls for a permanent solution."

The President's proposed \$1 billion increase for NIH would sustain and strengthen critical research programs that continue to make progress against cancer and other diseases.

"Federal investment in cancer research results in new, innovative, and personalized treatment, leading to longer, more productive lives for cancer patients," said Dr. Sledge. "The investment also creates jobs and improves local economies. We are pleased with the President's support at a time when scientific opportunities are at their highest."

As congressional committees begin consideration of the FY2012 budget, ASCO members will continue to work closely with members of Congress to emphasize the critical need for investments in clinical cancer research and treatment, including:

- sustaining medical progress through an NIH appropriation of \$35 billion for FY 2012, which would provide NCI with \$5.74 billion,
- doubling NCI funding for Cooperative Clinical Research from \$250 million to \$500 million by 2015 to preserve community-based research,
- enacting a permanent solution to the Medicare physician payment formula, and
- ensuring timely approval of safe and effective therapies by providing FDA with a \$2.85 billion budget for FY 2012.

In addition, ASCO will continue to encourage Congress to pass legislation that would help address ongoing drug shortages, reduce the growth of health care costs, and protect patients' access to care.

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