

July 13, 2026

Re: Public Comment on Proposed Changes to U.S. Federal Research Grant Processes
Docket ID: OMB-2026-0034

To the Office of Management and Budget:

On behalf of the International Society for Heart and Lung Transplantation (ISHLT), we appreciate the opportunity to submit the attached statement, *Protecting the Research Enterprise That Advances Thoracic Transplantation and Patient Care*, regarding proposed changes to U.S. federal research grant processes.

ISHLT is an international, multidisciplinary professional society dedicated to improving the care of patients with advanced heart and lung disease through research, education, clinical innovation, and collaboration. Our membership includes clinicians, scientists, surgeons, allied health professionals, and trainees from around the world who are committed to advancing the science and practice of heart and lung transplantation, mechanical circulatory support, and related therapies.

Recent changes to U.S. federal research grant processes, including those made by executive order and those reflected in this proposed rule, have prompted ISHLT to develop the attached enduring statement of principles regarding the importance of protecting the research enterprise that advances thoracic transplantation and patient care. Although this OMB proposal concerns U.S. federal research funding, ISHLT believes the issues raised have implications beyond a single jurisdiction. Policies affecting research funding, independent scientific review, publication and presentation of research findings, scientific meetings, and international collaboration can influence the pace and quality of scientific progress worldwide.

ISHLT is concerned that the current U.S. funding environment and several aspects of the proposed regulatory changes depart from these principles in substantive ways, particularly provisions that may weaken independent scientific peer review, restrict dissemination of research through publication and scientific meetings, or create barriers to international collaboration. In fields such as thoracic transplantation, where patient populations are relatively small and advances often depend on collaboration across institutions, disciplines, and countries, these principles are especially important.

ISHLT respectfully requests that the proposed regulations be revised to better align with principles that support rigorous, independent, collaborative, and openly communicated scientific research. As detailed in the attached statement, ISHLT supports transparent, predictable, merit-based, and scientifically rigorous research funding processes; independent expert review; open dissemination of research findings; international scientific collaboration; and professional forums that promote education, mentorship, and innovation.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments.

Sincerely,

Peter Hopkins, FRACP
ISHLT President