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Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
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Office of Science and Technology Policy
Eisenhower Executive Office Building
1650 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, D.C. 20504

RE: Docket No. OSTP-TECH-2025-0100, "Accelerating the American Scientific Enterprise"

The American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (ASBMB) is a nonprofit professional society that builds and empowers a broad community of molecular life scientists advancing discovery. Its community comprises 11,000 members, including researchers and science educators, ranging from senior scientists to students. ASBMB advocates for strengthening the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) workforce, and supports robust, sustained funding for the U.S. research enterprise.

The ASBMB appreciates the opportunity to submit a response to the request for information on Accelerating the American Scientific Enterprise. As new areas of research emerge, it is imperative that Federal policies expand to meet the needs of the scientific enterprise and ensure the nation retains its competitive edge, especially in leading the way in curiosity, discovery-based research. To maintain our leadership role in science and technology, the Federal government must support policies that sustain and grow the STEM talent pool on all fronts from basic science research to translational research.

To have a thriving scientific enterprise, it is important for the Federal government to attract the best talent from all backgrounds. Science is about solving complex problems and requires bringing different perspectives to the table to pursue novel questions and accelerate discovery. Current and past investments from federally funded training programs have resulted in thousands of researchers pursuing groundbreaking research in universities, national laboratories, starting biotechnology companies, and translating discoveries in private industry. Without continued investments into the scientific workforce from the Federal government, the country is in jeopardy of losing its competitive edge.

It is through this lens that the society offers input for the following questions as it relates to strengthening the country's scientific workforce and talent infrastructure:

iii. What policies would encourage the formation and scaling of regional innovation ecosystems that connect local businesses, universities, educational institutions, and the local workforce – Particularly in areas where the Federal government has existing research assets like national laboratories or federally-funded research centers?

Training the next generation of scientists is vital to sustaining the country's scientific workforce. The ASBMB recommends policies that scale up existing funding mechanisms and create new funding mechanisms to train the next generation of scientists by building and expanding training programs for discovery-based research. Across multiple federal science agencies are public-private partnerships that train junior scientists in entrepreneurship such as the I-Corps at NSF and I-Corps NIH programs. These programs work with industry partners in regional hubs, including universities, local and regional

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businesses, to streamline preclinical and translational research to the public. These partnerships are fertile grounds for cultivating stronger relationships between academia, government, and the private sector and present an opportunity to train new scientists. However, partnerships between academic basic science researchers and the private sector discovery teams are often left out from these programs. Developing specific funding mechanisms and training programs that foster public private partnerships to include more basic science researchers at the onset of training will help close the gap between knowledge gained between basic science research and translational research.

For existing programs, investing in successful STEM education funding mechanisms such as InnovATEBio that fund public-private training opportunities to expand the STEM workforce. These programs not only prepare the next generation of scientists for the workforce, but they also engage researchers and research related personnel across sectors to bolster the scientific enterprise. Lastly, to ensure that any of the partnerships continue, ASBMB strongly encourages congress to reauthorize the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs.