

August 23, 2020

The ASBMB statement on FDA emergency use authorization of blood plasma therapy for COVID-19 patients

The following is a statement from Benjamin Corb, public affairs director for the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology:

“President Trump is once again putting his political goals ahead of the health and well-being of the American public with his push for the Food and Drug Administration to issue an emergency use authorization for convalescent blood plasma treatment for COVID-19 patients. The FDA last week held up on issuing this authorization at the behest of government scientists who are awaiting clinical trials to prove the safety and efficacy of the treatment.

For some time now, the president has pushed a narrative that scientists are slow-walking treatments for COVID-19 until after the November election in an effort to hurt his reelection chances. These accusations are baseless and dangerously politicize science. President Trump has time and time again pushed unproven medical treatments during the pandemic, which have not stood up to scientific reviews for safety or efficacy.

Blood plasma transfusions are not without risks, including death, and scientists should be afforded the opportunity to prove the benefits outweigh the risks.

Finally, this announcement comes on the eve of the Republican National Convention, which is conspicuous timing.”