

Testimony of the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
to the
Appropriations Committees

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The American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, an international nonprofit scientific and educational organization, represents more than 11,000 students, researchers, educators and industry professionals. The ASBMB strongly advocates for strengthening the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) workforce, supporting sustainable funding for the U.S. research enterprise and ensuring diversity, equity and inclusion in STEM.

Almost all ASBMB members who are active researchers or trainees receive funding from federal agencies — such as the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation and the Department of Energy — to conduct scientific research. It's through this lens that the ASBMB strongly recommends the following:

1. **\$3.56 billion for the National Institutes of Health's (NIH) National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS)** to revitalize funding for fundamental biomedical research. The NIGMS is the largest funder of fundamental biomedical research, as well as biomedical research training programs to support the bioeconomy and its workforce.
2. **\$8.8 billion for the Office of Science at the Department of Energy** to continue bolstering the basic energy sciences and the bioeconomy. Fully funding the Science Laboratories Infrastructure Program at the authorized levels will help repair and modernize the national labs, the backbone of basic sciences.
3. **\$12 billion for the National Science Foundation** to fulfill the commitments made in the landmark CHIPS and Science Act that will strengthen research and workforce-related activities in the scientific enterprise, including the STEM Opportunities Act, Rural STEM Education Research Act, the MSI STEM Achievement Act and expanded graduate research fellowships.

The importance of robust and sustainable funding for fundamental scientific research cannot be overstated. Fundamental biological research seeks to understand the principles, mechanisms and processes of living organisms — including humans. This fundamental discovery research is the foundation for translational biomedical advancements that help us treat and cure diseases as well as advance scientific progress in other sectors, including livestock, agriculture and energy. Just over half ([51%](#)) of the NIH's budget supports fundamental science research, and, notably, an analysis of NIH funding found that each of the 210 new drugs approved by the Food and Drug Administration from 2010 to 2016 were made possible because of [NIH-funded research](#) (90% of which is fundamental research).

The NIGMS, in particular, plays a pivotal role in supporting the U.S. bioeconomy. The [NIGMS supports](#) 4,695 principal investigators and 4,906 research trainees, accounting for a mere 6.8% of NIH's total budget in fiscal year 2023. Boosting NIGMS's budget directly supports scientists doing incredible work and discovering new tactics to fight disease and improve Americans' lives. We urge appropriators to secure a 10% increase to NIGMS's budget.

Similarly, the Office of Science within the Department of Energy supports thousands of researchers and trains the next generation of scientists. For example, [the Basic Energy Sciences program supports](#) 6,100 Ph.D. scientists and 2,100 students in more than 47 states. In addition, nearly 16,000 scientists use DOE equipment and facilities to conduct their research across a wide range of fields covering the gamut of the U.S. research enterprise. Increasing DOE's budget pushes scientific research forward and invests in solutions to the energy- and climate-related challenges that we face as a nation.

Lastly, Congress rallied behind the CHIPS and Science Act last year, passing landmark legislation that will re-energize scientific research and training supported by the NSF, DOE and other federal science agencies. The key investments made through this bill will ensure the U.S. remains a global leader in innovation. Congress must rally again — this time to appropriate sufficient funding to the NSF to ensure new programs and initiatives supplement, and not supplant, the NSF's core research activities, which fuel U.S. competitiveness.