

AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR BIOCHEMISTRY AND MOLECULAR BIOLOGY

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BIOCHEMISTRY COMMUNITY COMMENTS ON PRESIDENT'S FY13 BUDGET

ROCKVILLE, Md., Feb. 13, 2012 – Earlier today, President Barack Obama released his budget plan for fiscal year 2013, a budget which funds the federal government at a level of \$3.8 trillion. The National Institutes of Health – the world's largest public investor in biomedical research – has been recommended to receive flat funding as compared to FY2012, at a level of \$30.7 billion for FY13.

“ASBMB appreciates the President's recognition of the importance of NIH support for the ability of the US to contribute at the cutting edge of biomedical discovery,” said ASBMB President Suzanne Pfeffer. Pfeffer added, “Unfortunately, flat funding does not mean we will be able to support the same amount of science as was supported last year. Investment in NIH creates jobs and enables invaluable research that private industry and the public depend on. ASBMB hopes for strong, sustained support for NIH as the economy continues to recover.”

The American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology understands the nation is facing difficult budgetary decisions, with federal spending reaching nearly unsustainable levels. Some programs will need to be cut, while some, such as biomedical research, cannot sustain continued, ‘stop-start’ funding. The American biomedical research enterprise plays a critical role in creating high-tech, high-paying jobs, helping to keep America a global leader in innovation – but it cannot do so without a reliable and robust federal investment.

With this in mind, ASBMB is calling on Congress to enact a 4.5% increase for FY13 to fund the NIH at a level of \$32.02 billion, with a goal of sustained increases to reach the programmatic need of the biomedical research enterprise of 35 billion by FY2015. This increase both negates the estimated 3.4% biomedical research and development price index calculation for inflation in FY2013, and provides for a modest 1.1% growth in the budget to allow for more research.

About the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

The ASBMB is a nonprofit scientific and educational organization with more than 12,000 members worldwide. Most members teach and conduct research at colleges and universities. Others conduct research in various government laboratories, at nonprofit research institutions and in industry. The Society's student members attend undergraduate or graduate institutions. For more information about ASBMB, visit www.asbmb.org.