

# 2026 ASBMB Capitol Hill Day Talking Points

## 1. Introductions

- a. (“I’m [Name], and I live in [City, State].”)
  - “I’m a researcher at [institution] where I study [research topic(s)] but I am here today as an individual. My research relates to [a disease or societal issue]. By studying [your research area] we’ve been able to move scientific discoveries/the scientific field forward by [how your research relates to scientific breakthroughs and advancements (including retaining STEM talent)].
- b. Tell your story (BRIEFLY)
  - “I’m here today to advocate for basic science research funding. In specifically funding for America’s world-leading research agencies, especially NIH and NSF.”
  - Explain how funding from the NIH and NSF has contributed to your research and training of the next generation of scientists.
  - Explain how recent actions by federal agencies have impacted your lab and how it affects your state and/or the country as a whole.

## 2. We thank Congress for maintaining strong funding in FY26 and we ask you to continue that support for America’s leading science agencies, especially for basic science research. In this folder, we have our requests for FY 27 appropriations.

- a. **Health benefits:** 99% of drug advances tie back to NIH research and fundamental science.
- b. **Economic Impact:** \$94.8 billion -- \$2.5 dollars for every \$1 invested
- c. **Recent polling:** highlights overwhelming support for biomedical research and investment to ensure we maintain America’s scientific leadership.
  - 3/4ths, from both parties, believe we should invest *more* in research. Half are very aware of cuts to medical research and 80 percent of them are very concerned about those directions

## 3. Predictable and sustained funding is essential to help American families by propelling lifesaving treatments and maintaining economic growth nationwide.

- a. Without sustained funding, the country’s research enterprise risks falling behind global competitors.
- b. Funding uncertainty also risks pushing U.S.-trained scientists to pursue career opportunities outside of the country in Canada, Europe and our top competitor in science, China.
- c. To develop and retain this talent here in America, we must invest in training programs that attract and keep the best in science and ensure a strong environment where they can do their best work.

## 4. We also urge Congress to ensure transparency and input on potential policy changes at federal agencies, with opportunity for scientific engagement, to prevent serious harm to America’s scientific enterprise. There are several examples:

- a. **Multi-year funding:** Without increased funding, this approach will significantly reduce the number of novel areas of investigation that lead to new breakthroughs and risk losing current and potential talent that is crucial for American leadership.
  - *In 2025, this new policy resulted in a 24% decrease in R01 awards, which is 1885 fewer new ideas to be tested and especially risks early-stage researchers who are the seed corn for future generations of scientific leadership.*
- b. **Training priorities:** programs should continue to support training and full participation in the research pipeline, recognizing scientific potential is available everywhere.
- c. **Basic science research:** It must remain a priority in LHHS and CJS appropriation bills to ensure that our country remains at the forefront of scientific progress.
- d. **Structures and reorganizations:** Congress should engage actively to consider any changes to NIH structures and staffing, which could have enormous impacts on funding priorities and training of the next generation.

## Q&A for Potential Questions

### *Facilities and Administrative Costs*

Q: What is your take on facilities and administrative costs? I heard it takes away from funding that supports research.

A: F&A costs actually help ensure that research is able to function most effectively. Indirect costs cover advanced research lab equipment, secure data storage, radiation and chemical safety and other laboratory maintenance costs. These are real costs and research cannot be conducted without them.

### *NIH Restructuring*

Q: NIH is planning to restructure its institutes into five focus areas. What should we know about how this reorganization will impact science?

A: Any significant reorganization of NIH must include basic science research and training for the next generation of scientists. Our members across the biochemistry and molecular biology community are funded across NIH institutes and across key science agencies and urge political leadership to ensure basic science research is prioritized.

In addition, we believe that any NIH reorganization and optimization should be made on the foundation of a thorough, consultative process that incorporates congressional hearings, bipartisanship and substantial stakeholder input.

### *Additional Information for the FY2027 Appropriation Asks*

5. **[National Institutes of Health]** We are requesting at least **\$51.3 billion for NIH's base budget an increase of 8.7%**
  - a. Funding from the NIH has contributed to 354 of the 356 drugs approved from 2010 to 2019—which is over 99%.
  - b. The NIH supports roughly 59% of all postdocs in academic research and development concentrated in biomedical sciences.
  - c. In FY2024 alone, NIH funding generated \$94.58 billion in economic activity.
    - Relate back to your lab --> for example, my NIH grant supports XXX number of trainees and postdocs which then supports our local economy.
6. **[National Science Foundation]** We're also requesting **\$9.9 billion for the National Science Foundation's budget**
  - a. Strengthening NSF funding will allow the agency to fulfill the administration's AI and national security priorities.
  - b. The NSF is the only science funding agency that supports basic science research across all science disciplines.
  - c. The NSF's annual budget alone represents almost a quarter of the total federal budget for basic scientific research.
  - d. Congress must invest in the U.S. research enterprise by robustly funding the NSF.
7. **[Department of Energy]** We are requesting **\$9.5 billion for the Department of Energy Office of Science's budget**
  - a. This office is the largest supporter of basic research in the physical sciences in the U.S. and is working to address some of the most pressing challenges of our time.
  - b. The DOE supports 17 national labs that provide scientists across all sectors with the research enterprise space to collaborate and answer the nation's pressing scientific questions using state of the art facilities.
  - c. The DOE Office of Science supports 11,100 investigators, 3,400 postdoctoral scholars, 5,200 graduate students and 9,700 scientific personnel. This is the scientific powerhouse that we need to drive U.S. competitiveness and innovation.