

AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR BIOCHEMISTRY AND MOLECULAR BIOLOGY

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STATEMENT ON PRESIDENT OBAMA'S FY17 BUDGET PROPOSAL

ROCKVILLE, MD – The American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology is disappointed in President Obama's fiscal 2017 budget proposal, which includes a \$1 billion cut to discretionary spending at the National Institutes of Health. After a year in which the NIH saw a significant increase to its budget, Obama's proposal fails to support critical research investments that will spur important discoveries and improve human health.

"Frankly, this budget does little to capitalize on the enormous bipartisan support for the NIH in Congress," said ASBMB Public Affairs Director Benjamin Corb. "To propose a funding level that is unable to sustain the biomedical research enterprise is surprising given the president's consistent, strong support for the agency."

While the budget appears to provide a \$1 billion increase to the NIH, Obama's proposal relies on Congress to develop a mandatory funding mechanism to supplant the discretionary cuts that have been proposed. Such a mechanism was included in the U.S. House of Representatives' 21st Century Cures Act, but this funding stream is not permanent and was intended to supplement, not supplant, baseline NIH appropriations.

We look forward to working with our bipartisan congressional champions in the coming months to pass an appropriation that will support the NIH and biomedical research as a national priority.

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