

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 10, 2020

**ASBMB STATEMENT ON FISCAL YEAR 2021 SPENDING PROPOSAL
RELEASED BY SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE**

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

“Today, the Senate Appropriations Committee released its [fiscal year 2021 spending proposal](#) for the departments of labor, health and education. In the legislation, the committee calls for a 4%, or \$2 billion, increase to the National Institutes of Health’s budget.

The ASBMB applauds the Senate’s continued and bipartisan support for investing in the nation’s biomedical research enterprise. This proposal keeps with a four-year trend of increased investments in the NIH, which supports researchers, from coast to coast, who are investigating the underlying mechanisms of disease and developing treatments and cures that have – and will continue to – save the life of countless Americans.

The COVID-19 pandemic has shined a bright light on the importance of robust investments in the NIH and in the federal agencies that support public health. The NIH, in partnership with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Food and Drug Administration, along with countless other federal agencies, are individually critical links in a chain that will lead the nation out of the public health crisis that has crippled the nation’s health and economy.

Setting the baseline appropriation for the next fiscal year is an important step, and we urge swift and bipartisan passage of this bill. Likewise, we urge leaders in the House and Senate to restart negotiations for a supplemental spending package that will provide relief funding for those federally funded scientists whose research was stalled during the early months of the pandemic and provide funding to continue the critical research on the SARS-COV-2 virus itself.”