

ASBMB STATEMENT ON COVID-19 STIMULUS PACKAGE

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

“As negotiations continue, we applaud the bipartisan and urgent action being taken by leaders in the U.S. House of Representatives, U.S. Senate and the White House.

The latest draft of the stimulus bill includes \$945 million in funding for the National Institutes of Health for development of diagnostics, treatments, vaccines and an overall better understanding of how the novel coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2, affects humans.

Also, the bill includes \$75 million in funding for the National Science Foundation for COVID-19 prevention, preparation and response.

These are important increases in funding, necessary to allow researchers and public health experts across the country to harness the strength of the American scientific enterprise to provide our leaders with the information necessary for science- and evidence-based policy making. This is vital to ensure the public health of Americans across the country.

It also allows scientists to continue research on other infectious and chronic diseases that pose a threat to the American people during this COVID-19 pandemic.

Beyond provisions that support scientific research and public health, the ASBMB supports parts of the stimulus aimed at helping our members outside of the laboratory as they work through the economic challenges of this crisis.

We urge fast passage of this stimulus package and continued investments in biomedical research and innovation.”