

**Testimony of the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology to the both the
House and Senate Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies**

Testimony in support of the National Institutes of Health

Submitted by:

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The American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, an international nonprofit scientific and educational organization, represents more than 12,000 students, researchers, educators and industry professionals. The ASBMB strongly advocates for strengthening the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) workforce, supporting sustainable funding for the U.S. research enterprise, and ensuring diversity, equity and inclusion in STEM.

The ASBMB strongly recommends policymakers appropriate \$51.3 billion, an increase of 9%, to the National Institutes of Health to maintain the agency's pivotal role in supporting the U.S. bioeconomy.

The U.S. research enterprise relies on the foundational funding that key federal science agencies provide, especially funding from the NIH. Each year, more than [80% of the NIH's budget](#) is awarded to researchers across the country pursuing all aspects of biomedical science and innovation. NIH-funded research is conducted in every U.S. state and the District of Columbia, supporting local economies everywhere, training the next generation of scientists and furthering scientific progress and breakthroughs. For example, in fiscal year 2022, NIH awards supported 46,778 primary investigators, 28,953 postdoctoral fellows, 35,271 graduate students and 12,832 technicians. Without this essential funding from the NIH, the U.S. would not be training the brightest scientific minds of the future.

Sustainable, predictable increases to the NIH's budget not only strengthen our scientific workforce and support local economies, but also pave the path for developing new treatments, therapies and technologies. For [every \\$1 increase in publicly funded basic research](#) stimulates an additional \$8.38 of industry research and development after eight years. And NIH funding contributed to the [development of 354 out of 356 drugs approved](#) by the US Food and Drug Administration from 2010 to 2019. The funding the NIH provides to the U.S. research enterprise supports researchers now and bolsters the economy and health of the future.

We urge appropriators to commit to a 9% increase to the NIH's budget, bringing the total budget to \$51.3 billion, to strengthen America's role as the leader in scientific research and development and to prepare us for the most pressing challenges of the 21st century.