

ASBMB STATEMENT ON STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS

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

In his State of the Union address tonight, President Donald Trump outlined a vision for America that fails to capture the critical roles that science and those in the U.S. scientific enterprise play in improving the health and quality of life of Americans from coast to coast.

While the president outlined an aggressive plan for investing in the nation's infrastructure, the scientific community needs more support and leadership from the White House.

Countless scientific positions in President Trump's administration remain unfilled, and several others are held by nonscientists.

The administration's immigration policies and rhetoric have affected foreign scientists. Researchers from abroad have been prevented from attending research conferences here, and we've seen fewer foreign students choosing America's universities, which ends up costing domestic students in the end.

Agencies such as the National Institutes of Health and National Science Foundation – critical funders of the nation's scientific enterprise – continue to grapple with budgetary uncertainty, which slows the pace of innovation and makes American science less competitive in a global environment.

Advances in science and technology will not only strengthen the American economy but also strengthen our national defense. Advances in the life sciences will help citizens worldwide live longer, healthier lives.

We look forward to partnering with the administration and Congress to develop policies that help secure America's role as a global leader in research and innovation.