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ASBMB statement on the importance of science and evidence-based policymaking

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

“While the United States continues to fight the worst pandemic in over 100 years, with more than 41 million cases and 1.1 million deaths globally, the Trump administration has systematically eroded trust and faith in biomedical research by ignoring scientific evidence about how to slow the spread of SARS-CoV-2 and by touting unproven therapies and treatments for COVID-19. But the scientific community has been undeterred in fighting the pandemic; researchers have been working around the clock to investigate, analyze and sequence the virus and to identify treatments, debunk myths and highlight effective public health measures. All of this has resulted in promising vaccines that are ready to be deployed to essential health workers and vulnerable populations.

Scientists have repeatedly answered the call for help throughout this pandemic by meticulously studying the novel coronavirus and identifying possible treatments and vaccines. Yet time and time again, science has been ignored by the Trump administration. As a result, Americans are continuing to suffer in ways those in nations that have listened to scientists and embraced evidence-based solutions simply have not.

Wearing masks, maintaining physical distance and limiting indoor exposure are necessary, evidence-based guidelines that health agencies around the world have promoted to protect their citizens. While these measures are not always popular, it is up to scientific and medical leaders to uphold science and evidence-based practices that can slow the spread of the virus and protect hundreds of thousands of lives.

Science must guide our actions and policies. It’s time for partisan politics to get out of this public health emergency.”