

## **ASBMB responds to Trump budget proposal that threatens funding for 2,000 research projects**

Benjamin Corb, director of public affairs for the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, provided the following statement in response to the president's proposal:

Once again, President Donald Trump has disappointed the scientific community by proposing billions of dollars in cuts — this time to the fiscal year 2017 budget.

In the president's reduction request for FY17, he calls for a \$1.23 billion cut to the National Institutes of Health budget. To achieve that, he proposes eliminating new IDeA grants, worth \$50 million, and taking \$1.18 billion from the pool for new research grants.

After a year in which the NIH enjoyed bipartisan support that resulted in a \$2 billion increase and passage of a massive legislative package supporting new research programs that will yield life-saving therapies for such diseases as cancer and Alzheimer's and to improve the drug-discovery pipeline, the president and his budget team have proposed throwing progress out the window in favor of cutting nondefense discretionary spending.

Trump is basically proposing that the NIH fund 2,000 fewer grants this fiscal year and proposing a deeper reduction in FY18.

The president continues to put the health and well-being of Americans in danger to move forward a so-called "hard power budget," even while leaders from his own party view investments in biomedical research as critical to the nation's security.

The ASBMB rejects the president's proposal and will continue working with its congressional partners to protect the American scientific enterprise.