



American Society for
Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
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Dr. Joanne S. Tornow
Acting Assistant Director
Directorate for Biological Sciences
National Science Foundation
2415 Eisenhower Ave,
Alexandria, VA 22314

February 1, 2019

Dear Dr. Tornow,

The American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology would like to thank the Biological Sciences Directorate for considering comments and concerns voiced by the research community and for acting on that input and reversing the policy that imposed submission limits for lead and co-principle investigators. The ASBMB represents basic researchers in the fields of biochemistry and molecular biology, many of whom seek funding from the NSF, largely from the BIO directorate. In fact, sixty-four percent of our members who receive NSF funding are awarded grants by the BIO directorate.

Historically, the ASBMB has advocated for increasing proposal submission opportunities across NSF's core programs because single submission windows often lengthen investigator funding gaps. In particular, the submission limits that were included with the removal of submission deadlines posed a serious risk to the careers of researchers who obtain funding through the directorate.

We understand that multiple factors culminated in formation of the investigator submission limit policy, yet we are glad that the directorate considered responses from the community and reversed this policy. We commend the BIO directorate for acting in response to the needs of the research community. The process that was applied is reflective of the interactive policy formation and evaluation process that we see as essential for continually improving the funding framework for both the community and funding agencies.

As active members of the research community, the ASBMB continues to welcome any opportunity to work with the BIO directorate in the formation of policies that impact the biological sciences community. Please let us know how we can be of help in the future.

Kind Regards,

Gerald W. Hart
ASBMB President