

American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Office of Public Affairs

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The American Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology is a nonprofit organization representing over 12,000 research scientists. ASBMB is strongly supportive of President Obama and the Office of Science and Technology Policy in pursuing the advancements in biological research to address our national goals and concerns. ASBMB agrees that maintaining America's global leadership status in innovation requires continued support of basic research through strong, sustained federal funding. Basic research has always been the lifeblood of American innovation in science and technology. Countless examples of "game-changing" innovations, such as sequencing the human genome, statin drugs, modern HIV treatments, targeted cancer therapies, organ transplantation/anti-rejection drugs, and the recent introduction of anti-clotting drugs such as dabigatran and eptifibatide have their foundations in basic research.

ASBMB enthusiastically agrees with the administration's efforts to better utilize the power of biological research. In addition, we argue that long-term success requires ongoing emphasis on the innovation pipeline through basic research, even as we develop recent discoveries to meet the "Grand Challenges." In the following section we will present our responses, to questions 1-6, 9, 10, and 12. As ASBMB is primarily composed of basic research scientists, we will address those questions related to our collective expertise. Each response addresses the specific issues within the question with the overarching goal of sustained federal funding for investigator-initiated basic research.

Responses to Questions for the Bioeconomy Blueprint

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