

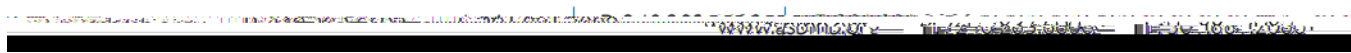
ASBMB STATEMENT ON PRESIDENT TRUMP’S NATIONAL ADDRESS

This evening, President Donald Trump took to the airwaves to make the case for building a wall on the nation's southern border. The wall comes with a \$5 billion price tag, to be paid for by the American taxpayers. Border security is important, but immigration experts from across the political spectrum argue there is not a crisis that requires this level of investment.

If the president is looking for ways to invest \$5 billion that will make a difference to all Americans, might we suggest, first, ending the government shutdown that has stopped the National Science Foundation – for example – from investing in American scientists from coast to coast. Between Jan. 1 and Jan. 8, 2018, the NSF had funded 108 research grants valued at \$42 million. During that period this year, the NSF has issued no grants. So let's end the science shutdown. And if the president is still looking to spend \$5 billion in new investments, we have some suggestions.

The president could support the American scientific enterprise by:

- **Funding 10,364 new research grants at the National Institutes of Health.** R01 and R01-equivalent research grants .[(r)-1 /TT3 1 Tf ()Tj /TT2 1 Tf 1.5 0 Td [(F)11 (u)-4 (n)-4 (d)-4 (i)-2 (n)-4 (





each awardee receiving a \$34,000 annual stipend for three years. The program has funded more than 50,000 graduate students since its inception in 1952⁵.

- **Creating 14,733 new training grants at the NIH.** NIH training awards are the agency's main funding mechanism for supporting the biomedical research workforce. These grants provide funding for undergraduate, graduate and postdoctoral trainees through individual fellowships and institutional grants toward careers in health-related fields⁶.
- **Creating 13,888 new Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) awards at NSF.** The REU program provides undergraduates with hands-on experiences in labs that conduct research on scientific topics funded by the NSF across the United States. Each student receives a stipend, housing, meals, and travel expenses for up to 10 weeks at a REU site. REU supplements are also provided to allow new and renewing NSF grants to incorporate student training opportunities in exciting new scientific research projects⁷.

Border security is important. But so is supporting the American scientist. President Trump needs to end this political charade over funding for a border wall, negotiate in good faith and work with Congress to reopen the government so that scientists can go back to helping build a stronger, safer, healthier and more prosperous America.

⁵ https://www.nsfgrfp.org/general_resources/about

⁶ <https://researchtraining.nih.gov/programs/training-grants?CFID=822601855&CFTOKEN=d92f021e7dcd82fd-D72AFCBE-5056-9439-7E8A7C8B81A54675>

⁷ https://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=5517

