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Subject: ASBMB written comments to the National Advisory Neurological Disorders and Stroke Council May meeting.

The American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology remains supportive of policies across the National Institutes of Health towards cultivating the next generation of biomedical researchers. We are encouraged to see that the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke has introduced policies that directly impact new investigators. It is our view that if the biomedical research enterprise is to be properly sustained, each institute must adopt new and dynamic policies that target early stage and at-risk established investigators. We applaud the NINDS for its leadership in this space.

The ASBMB supports the recently announced NINDS Special Council Review (SCR) Policy as a necessary step to not only fund more investigators, but also ensure that federal research dollars achieve the highest impact possible. Additionally, we feel that the NINDS' commitment to increasing the payline for investigator initiated projects to 15 percent and funding early stage investigators at 25 percent serves as an example for how other institutes at the NIH can better support researchers at all levels.

In April, the ASBMB distributed a [letter](#) to NIH Institute Directors, Institute Directors of Extramural Activities and members of the Advisory Committee to the Director's Next Generation of Researchers Initiative Working Group. In this letter we put forth 5 policy suggestions that we feel should be considered as the ACD NGRI working group develops the NIH's preliminary NGRI recommendations. Included in our list of suggested policies are recommendations to: 1) Establish a program to fund early stage investigators; 2) Establish a program to retain at-risk established investigators; 3) Establish a cross-NIH sliding scale for the funding of multiple awards; 4) Set salary support limits; and 5) Establish a program to promote re-entry. We encourage the NINDS to examine the ACD's final NGRI recommendations and implement the one's that will ensure a sustainable biomedical research enterprise.

In addition, as policies like the NINDS' revised SCR policy and the NGRI come to fruition we recommend that the NINDS take efforts to make all relevant data readily accessible. The ASBMB feels that it is important that the broader biomedical research community are allowed to be better informed on how changes like the SCR or NGRI impact institute budgets and researcher demographics. Moreover, increasing data transparency will ensure that the community can more substantively participate in policy discussions.

The ASBMB will continue to support the mission of the NINDS and the creation of policies across the NIH to improve the biomedical research enterprise. Additionally, the ASBMB maintains a [policy blog](#) and a biweekly



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podcast entitled "[Pipettes and Politics](#)" that we encourage the NINDS and the Advisory council to explore. We greatly appreciate the opportunity to discuss the concerns of our members and look forward to continuing a dialogue with the NINDS.