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Bethesda, MD 20892

RE: Comments to NIGMS Advisory Council

The American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (ASBMB) is an international nonprofit scientific and educational organization that represents more than 12,000 students, researchers, educators and industry professionals. The ASBMB strongly advocates for strengthening the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) workforce, supporting sustainable funding for the American research enterprise, and ensuring diversity, equity and inclusion in STEM.

The ASBMB applauds the National Institute of General Medical Sciences for its commitment to divers

states to guarantee their availability. We recommend that NIGMS increase the number of [IDeA awards from one to two awards per state](#), and publish data from these awards to [NIGMS Loop](#).

Continue the issuance and renewal of MIRA awards

The ASBMB is enthused that the rate of MIRA renewals is twice that of traditional R01 renewals. This demonstrates the benefits of giving researchers enhanced flexibility to pursue novel ideas and explore unexpected findings that would have otherwise not met the narrow research aims proposed in R01 grants. We hope to see this program expand to provide new awards to more researchers, since the current MIRA awardee pool largely consists of historically well-resourced labs. By providing more MIRA awards, NIGMS can extend the benefit of stable and flexible funding to a greater proportion of the scientific community.

We encourage NIGMS to replicate the success of MIRA awards beyond the initial pool of MIRA awardees to investigators at minority-serving institutions particularly historically Black colleges and universities, that would hugely benefit from the optimized structure of the MIRA program. The ASBMB also urges the NIGMS council to remain diligent in conducting research on funding disparities and rectifying the proportionally low representation of historically marginalized investigators among the R01 and MIRA awardees.