

FASEB comments in response to [NOT-GM-20-034](#), “Request for Information: Soliciting Input on the NIGMS 2021-2025 Strategic Plan Framework”

Comments to be submitted via [webform](#) on July 14, 2020

Question 1: The suitability of the goals and objectives of the framework relative to the NIGMS mission.

The Federation of American of Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB) appreciates the opportunity to provide feedback on the [draft framework](#) for the National Institute of General Medical Sciences’ (NIGMS’s) strategic plan for calendar years (CYs) 2021 – 2025. As a coalition of 29 scientific societies representing over 130,000 scientists in a range of biological and biomedical disciplines, FASEB recognizes the important role of NIGMS in supporting investigator-initiated research activities and shared research resource programs that provide the foundation for the broader biomedical research enterprise. Similarly, NIGMS programs play a critical role in developing the next generation of researchers through its extensive education and training programs. In particular, FASEB appreciates the Institute’s attention to supporting early-stage investigators and bolstering its programming focused on retention of underrepresented groups in the scientific workforce. The proposed framework balances continuation of support for these core offerings with updates to accommodate the current research landscape while ensuring appropriate stewardship of federal funds. Similarly, use of thorough program evaluations balanced with stakeholder engagement via Requests for Information have increased transparency regarding the Institute’s decision making, building trust with both the research community and public.

Question 2: Additional areas that should be considered in the plan’s framework.

No specific response.

Question 3: Suggested performance measures and milestones that can be used to gauge success and or inform course corrections.

FASEB applauds NIGMS for its use of data to assess and refine its programming. In addition to continuous assessment of the demographics of NIGMS applicants and awardees, we encourage robust reporting of the career outcomes of trainees, including career paths beyond the bench.

Question 4: Any other topic that respondents feel is relevant for NIGMS to consider in developing this framework and the subsequent 2021 – 2025 strategic plan.

FASEB encourages NIGMS to continue its support of training programs that emphasize core competencies and preparedness for the range of careers available in the biological and biomedical sciences. Similarly, we support the Institute’s initiatives to retain trainees through critical career transitions through independent funding sources and novel models for continuous professional development.