

June 1, 2020

ASBMB statement on canceling student visas for Chinese students

The following is a statement from Benjamin Corb, public affairs director for the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology:

“The American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology opposes plans by the Trump administration to cancel the visas of thousands of Chinese graduate students and researchers in the U.S. who have direct ties to universities affiliated with the People’s Liberation Army. The [visa cancellation could affect](#) at least 3,000 students, and officials have acknowledged there is no direct evidence that has pointed to wrongdoing by Chinese visa-holding students.

Scientific research is reliant on international collaboration and the exchange of international students. Chinese students and researchers are experts in scientific fields and bolster American research efforts. International education exchange is prized for its intellectual value, and the American research enterprise thrives when attracting talent from all parts of the world.

These efforts are eroding the collaborative nature of scientific research that are necessary for innovation. As an international organization that represents researchers from around the world, the ASBMB strongly urges governmental officials and the Trump administration to maintain the openness and collaborative nature of the scientific research in the U.S.”