



## Mixed Messages

### Dear Editor:

I am confused and upset about the last issue of *ASBMB Today*. In this issue, there is a feature giving the collective views of an ASBMB team on future spending at NIH. It is mentioned that there has been a tendency to overfund conglomerate programs in preference to single investigator-initiated grants (*i.e.* R01s). It is my feeling that the vast majority of biomedical scientists in the U.S. feel the same way—that we need to protect R01 type funding. Kudos to ASBMB for promoting this. It is thus ironic that the same issue of *ASBMB Today* features a cover story on the Lipidomics program funded by NIH. It is my feeling that most people in the lipid field are very upset by this type of spending and strongly feel that the value of this Lipidomics initiative is minimal compared to hypothesis-driven research. The latter has produced many more interesting lipids of known function over the past several years in which the Lipidomics program has existed.

It is time for people like me to speak out against promoting this kind of science that most people feel is close to a waste of time and money. I say this not out of my own desperation (my R01 funding is in good shape), I am speaking as a well established, securely employed biomedical scientist who sees the problems that come when young scientists cannot start up their research programs and established investigators go in circles of hiring and firing of their lab segments.

If you poll the biomedical community, I am confident they would applaud the ASBMB committee

message on the need for more R01-type spending, and they would be upset with the Lipidomics feature. How can we expect to help the situation if ASBMB is sending mixed messages to Congress?

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