ASM is the oldest and largest single life science society, composed of more than 30,000 scientists and health professionals. Our mission is to promote and advance the microbial sciences, including programs and initiatives funded by the U.S. government. Basic, translational and clinical microbial research is funded by multiple federal science agencies, and public health funding is critical to the implementation of advances made against pathogens.

National Institutes of Health (NIH)

The requested appropriation for the NIH base budget of at least $50.9 billion is in line with the request of the Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research and would allow for meaningful growth above inflation that would expand NIH’s capacity to support promising science in all disciplines. This would build on Congress’ recent investments in NIH that have allowed for advances in discoveries toward promising therapies and diagnostics, supported current and new scientists nationwide and advanced the potential of medical research. Steady support for NIH enabled the unprecedented pace of development of COVID-19 vaccines, demonstrating the value of investing in base, clinical and translational science. Additional money to support an Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H) should supplement, not supplant, funding for the NIH base.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

ASM supports a funding level of $11.6 billion for CDC in FY24. CDC’s strategic priorities focus scientific expertise on ending epidemics, eliminating disease, securing global health and America’s preparedness, and shoring up programs to ensure we can better respond to the next pandemic. Several divisions at CDC provide support for ASM priority areas including:

- Infectious disease: includes immunization and respiratory diseases, emerging and zoonotic infectious diseases like SARS-CoV-2 and HIV/AIDS, viral hepatitis, STD and TB prevention;
- Public health service and implementation: includes laboratory sciences and global health;
- Public health science and technology, including surveillance, epidemiology and workforce training.

One example of CDC’s innovative work is the Advanced Molecular Detection (AMD) program, which integrates the latest next-generation genomic sequencing techniques (NGS) with bioinformatics and epidemiology to help find, track, and stop disease-causing pathogens more quickly than in the past. The AMD program has allowed CDC to quickly adapt and deploy novel, highly effective technologies into the public health system. ASM supports increasing appropriations for the program to $175 million, to build on AMD’s innovation, modernize state and local health departments, and collaborate with U.S. universities to strengthen the public health workforce. The AMD program played an instrumental role in our COVID-19 pandemic response, driving genomic surveillance and sequencing of SARS-CoV-2 samples to stay ahead of variants as they have emerged.
Fiscal Year 2024 Appropriations Requests

National Science Foundation (NSF)
Research funded by NSF has proven vital to the nation’s economic growth, national security, and overall competitiveness in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) development and education. ASM requests $11.9 billion in appropriation, in line with the request of the Coalition for National Science Funding, to support the transformative Big Ideas initiative, as well as protect core programs, build and operate world-class research infrastructure, and train the future STEM workforce.

U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI)
ASM supports the AFRI Coalition’s request for $700 million in funding for FY 2024. Currently, nearly 75 percent of AFRI proposals that are approved by expert panels have to be rejected due to insufficient funding. Investment in agricultural research will help to spur new research innovations that fuel the economy, safeguard food security, and conserve our nation’s environmental resources. In addition, ASM supports funding for the Agriculture Advanced Research Development Authority at $100 million for FY 2024.

Department of Energy, Office of Science
ASM supports the Energy Sciences Coalition request for $9.5 billion for DOE’s Office of Science. This investment would allow DOE to prioritize funding for early-stage research and ensure that the U.S. remains global leaders in science and technology. The Office of Science sponsors vital research in innovative research areas, prepares the next generation of scientific talent, operates the largest collection of major scientific user facilities in the world, supports economic growth and ensures national security. ASM strongly encourages a commensurate increase for the Joint Genome Institute including funding of $10 million for the National Microbiome Data Collaborative.