February 1, 2017

Dear ASCB Members,

The recent action by the Trump Administration to limit entry into the United States by Muslims from seven countries goes against key values embodied by our Society: inclusiveness and the understanding that scientific excellence requires a collaborative international community. Indeed, many of us are immigrants to the United States.

Cell biology, like all science, is international, depending on scientists in and from countries around the world. American science itself would simply not be able to function without the daily contributions of students, postdocs, and faculty who call other countries home.

For decades, people have come to the United States because of the opportunities available here to learn and do science and because the United States is so welcoming. Thus, travel for short or extended periods to the United States is critical for the exchange of information, to receive training, and to create and foster essential collaborations. Conversely, foreign scientists bring to the United States invaluable knowledge and expertise.

The Administration’s actions over the past several days go against this essential practice of international collaboration and as such are damaging to scientific progress. However, the tens of thousands of citizens protesting around the world in opposition are reaffirming what is best about America.

The ASCB has issued a strong statement opposing the immigration order that has been posted on the ASCB website and on its Facebook page. We can assure you that we will continue to be your voice on this and any other issues that may arise.

Sincerely,

Pietro De Camilli
President

Peter Walter
Past President

Jodi Nunnari
President-Elect