



**Society For
Biomaterials**
Giving life to a world of materials

1120 Route 73, Suite 200
Mount Laurel, NJ 08054
P 856.439.0826
F 856.439.0525
www.biomaterials.org

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500
United States of America

February 23, 2017

Dear President Trump:

As the country's leading multidisciplinary society of academic, healthcare, governmental and business professionals dedicated to promoting advancements in all aspects of biomaterial science, education and professional standards to enhance human health and quality of life, the Society For Biomaterials (SFB) is devoted to attracting the world's leading scientific minds to the challenge of expanding our understanding of biomaterials science.

We are deeply concerned by the January 27, 2017 Executive Order suspending visas to nationals of seven Muslim-majority countries. We believe this policy will disrupt promising careers, impede research progress, and weaken the United States as a destination for scientific progress. Our nation depends on collaboration of the greatest minds from around the world to maintain the high quality of our scientific research, regardless of their country of origin. The SFB is proud to be represented in 33 countries, including members in Muslim-majority countries.

Scientific progress hinges upon ideas of transparency and the free flow of ideas; the U.S. has richly benefitted from these principles by attracting international scientific talent. To remain the world leader in advancing biomaterials research, the U.S. must continue to allow for this free flow of ideas and welcome the multicultural environment in which scientific advances thrive.

The implications of the Executive Order have a broad reach and will affect more than the scientific community. This policy will discourage many of the best and brightest international students, scholars, and scientists from studying, working, attending academic conferences, or building new businesses in the U.S. Implementation of this policy will compromise our nation's ability to attract international scientific talent and maintain scientific and economic leadership.

Sincerely,

{SIGNATURE}

Liisa Kuhn, PhD
President, Society For Biomaterials
On behalf of the Society For Biomaterials Board of Directors
(Respond via email to lkuhn@uchc.edu , or info@biomaterials.org)