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FASEB ANNOUNCES RECIPIENT OF THE 2011 EXCELLENCE IN SCIENCE AWARD

Bethesda, MD – The Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB) is pleased to announce that Gail R. Martin, PhD, will be the recipient of the FASEB 2011 Excellence in Science Award.

The annual award recognizes a woman whose outstanding achievements in biological science are widely recognized by the scientific community due to their quality and impact. Recipients are also strong mentors and make contributions to the scientific community beyond their research discoveries. This prestigious award, sponsored in total by Eli Lilly and Company, carries with it an unrestricted research grant of \$10K. Dr. Martin will receive her award and present an award lecture in 2011 (location to be determined).

Dr. Martin is a leader in the field of developmental biology. She has advanced our understanding of how complex organisms such as birds and mammals develop from a single cell, the fertilized egg. Her work has shed light on how embryonic stem cells go through a process called differentiation, where cells begin to specialize and form complex structures including organs and limbs. She determined that a family of proteins called fibroblast growth factors control limb formation, and when the function or timing of these factors are altered, limb deformities can occur. She has published over 100 peer review manuscripts in some of the most prestigious journals in the world. Dr. Martin is generous with her time and reagents. She has often developed new tools and approaches that she shares with other scientists before they are published.

The quality and importance of Dr. Martin's work led to her election to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences (1991), and to the US National Academy of Sciences (2002). She has been the recipient of the E.G. Conklin medal from the Society for Developmental Biology for excellence in developmental biology research (2002), the Ernst W. Bertner Memorial Award from the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center (2006), and the Pearl Meister Greengard Prize from The Rockefeller University that she shared with Beatrice Mintz and Elizabeth Robertson.

Dr. Martin served as the President of the Society for Developmental Biology from 2006-2007. As its president, she volunteered her time to lead a professional organization that is dedicated to advancing the field of developmental biology through its annual meeting, its professional journal and other activities. Dr. Martin is also a cherished mentor who has trained numerous investigators who have gone on to become leaders in developmental biology in their own right. She helped establish the Graduate Program in Developmental Biology at the University of California San Francisco, and she has served as its Director continuously since 1986. Thus, her influence extends well into the future through the people she has helped shape.

Written by:
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Chairman, Excellence in Science Committee
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FASEB is composed of 23 societies with more than 100,000 members, making it the largest coalition of biomedical research associations in the United States. FASEB enhances the ability of scientists and engineers to improve—through their research—the health, well-being and productivity of all people. Our mission is to advance health and welfare by promoting progress and education in biological and biomedical sciences through service to our member societies and collaborative advocacy.