
Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology

Office of Public Affairs • 9650 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, Md. 20814-3998 • <http://opa.faseb.org/>

Contact: Carrie D. Wolinetz, PhD
(301) 634-7650
cwolinetz@faseb.org

FASEB LAUNCHES CONGRESSIONAL VISIT TOOLBOX

Bethesda, MD – The Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB) has launched the [Congressional Visit Toolbox](#), an online resource aimed at empowering, training, and equipping scientists to build relationships with their elected representatives in Congress. The Toolbox contains everything needed to plan and conduct a Congressional visit, including templates for meeting requests and follow-up letters, printable, state-specific “leave-behind” materials, and customizable talking points on the importance of biomedical research. Training materials, such as a slideshow tutorial on advocacy and a video of Congressional visit role-plays, are also linked to the site.

The launch of the new Toolbox comes at a time when science advocacy is critical. “With the recent investments in biomedical research through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act set to expire next year, and future funding for the National Institutes of Health and other science agencies uncertain, scientists have an important role to play by directly contacting their legislators to talk about their concerns and priorities,” said FASEB President Mark Lively, Ph.D. “We hope that this resource provides scientists with all they need to convey their messages effectively, whether they are new to biomedical science advocacy or longtime leaders in the field.”

As part of a pilot program to field-test the Toolbox, several members of the FASEB Board of Directors and Science Policy Committee conducted visits with their elected officials over the August recess. Larry J. Suva, Ph.D., Director of the Center for Orthopaedic Research at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, tested the Congressional Visit Toolbox in his home state of Arkansas and remarked, “The [Congressional Visit] Toolbox gave me templates for leave behind information as well as introductory remarks for setting the stage that were invaluable. I was well prepared and it showed.”

The “Congressional Visit Toolbox: Your Guide to Advocating for Science on Capitol Hill and At Home” is available at this link: <http://opa.faseb.org/pages/Advocacy/congressvisittoolbox.htm>.

FASEB is composed of 22 societies with more than 90,000 members, making it the largest coalition of biomedical research associations in the United States. FASEB enhances the ability of biomedical and life scientists 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 its member societies and collaborative advocacy.