



Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology

— *Quality Life Through Research* —

October 26, 2009

Member Societies

The American Physiological Society
American Society for Biochemistry and
Molecular Biology
American Society for Pharmacology and
Experimental Therapeutics
American Society for Investigative
Pathology
American Society for Nutrition
The American Association of
Immunologists
American Association of Anatomists
The Protein Society
Society for Developmental Biology
American Peptide Society
Association of Biomolecular Resource
Facilities
The American Society for Bone and
Mineral Research
American Society for Clinical
Investigation
Society for the Study of Reproduction
Teratology Society
The Endocrine Society
The American Society of Human
Genetics
Society for Gynecologic Investigation
Environmental Mutagen Society
International Society for
Computational Biology
American College of Sports Medicine
Biomedical Engineering Society

Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of the more than 90,000 biomedical and life sciences researchers and the twenty-two societies represented by the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB), I am writing to express my sincere appreciation for the comments you made about the benefits of strengthening the U.S. commitment to basic research and the problems created by boom-and-bust funding cycles during your September 21st speech at Hudson Valley Community College. I was especially pleased that you reiterated your commitment to increase our national investment in research and development to a full three percent of our Gross Domestic Product.

I would like to thank you and Congress for your faith in the research community and your generosity in providing the resources that are essential for scientific progress and innovation. We are also grateful for your commitment to raise the profile of science and your ongoing supportive statements. It is precisely because of prior federal investment in the National Institutes of Health (NIH) that my fellow scientists have made critical advances in understanding disease, sequenced the human genome, produced groundbreaking treatments for devastating diseases, and saved and improved the lives of millions of Americans.

As you noted in your remarks in New York, the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act* (ARRA) “helped achieve the largest increase in basic research in history.” We are grateful for this investment and mindful of the responsibilities it entails. However, we are at risk to lose the momentum generated by ARRA if a sustainable path forward is not provided with adequate support in post-ARRA budgets. Newly funded research projects will be halted, jobs will be lost, productive scientific careers cut short, and scientific opportunities missed. The most painful consequence of losing these opportunities will be the delay in relief to those suffering from the burdens of disease. In 2011 and beyond, we must sustain our newly built research capacity and capitalize on the opportunities created by ARRA.

As you and your economic advisors begin to assemble the FY2011 budget request, we urge you to make a renewed national commitment to sustained, predictable growth in NIH funding in FY2011 and beyond. Long-term plans for federal investment in science facilitate coordination and planning, encourage investments by the private sector, attract new talent, reduce the startup costs of projects, and eliminate the possibility of waste that could result from abrupt termination of valuable scientific investigations.

We know that these are difficult times for our nation and for people all around the globe. We also see that there are positive signs that we are turning the corner on this economic crisis and we can look ahead to a brighter future. The affirmation of science as the key to a better future is a major step forward. As champions of the lifesaving work of NIH and the investigators funded by the agency, we look forward to working with you and your scientific advisors during this period of extraordinary scientific opportunity.

Sincerely,

Mark O. Lively, Ph.D.
FASEB President

President

Mark O. Lively, Ph.D.
Professor of Biochemistry
Wake Forest University
School of Medicine
Medical Center Blvd.
Winston-Salem, NC 27157
Telephone (336) 716-2969
Fax (336) 777-3242
mlively@wfubmc.edu

9650 Rockville Pike
Bethesda, MD 20814-3998
Telephone (301) 634-7090
<http://www.faseb.org>