

**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

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*President*

Richard B. Marchase, Ph.D.  
Vice President for Research  
Professor of Cell Biology  
University of Alabama at Birmingham  
AB 720E - 1530 3rd Ave S.  
Birmingham, AL 35294-0107  
Telephone (205) 934-1294  
Fax (205) 975-2533  
marchase@uab.edu

9650 Rockville Pike  
Bethesda, MD 20814-3998  
Telephone (301) 634-7650  
Fax (301) 634-7651  
<http://www.faseb.org>

June 29, 2009

John P. Holdren, Ph.D.  
Director  
Office of Science and Technology Policy  
Executive Office of the President  
725 17th Street Room 5228  
Washington, DC 20502  
Phone: 202.456.7116

**VIA FACSIMILE TO: 202.456.6021**

Dear Dr. Holdren,

I write on behalf of the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB) to express our sincerest appreciation for your recent comments regarding the pending reauthorization of the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program and federal funding for research. FASEB is composed of 22 scientific societies with more than 90,000 members, making it the largest coalition of biomedical research associations in the United States. Our mission is to advance health and welfare by promoting progress and education in biological and biomedical sciences.

We agree strongly with your statement in a June 2 letter to Senator Mary Landrieu that “[t]he current budget set-asides of 2.5 percent for SBIR and 0.3 percent for STTR for all federally funded extramural research provide a sufficient floor for agencies to invest in innovation from small business.” We also support the Administration’s commitment to increase federal investment in scientific research, and we believe that this is the best way to increase funding for all research priorities, including SBIR. We commend your efforts to communicate this important message to Congress.

We are very concerned about the Senate proposal (S. 1233) to increase the SBIR allocation from 2.5% to 3.5%, and have organized a coalition of nearly 100 patient advocacy organizations, scientific and professional societies, higher education associations, and research institutions, representing millions of Americans, to oppose the allocation increase. We are also working to bring the message to Congress that SBIR should be reauthorized without a change in the allocation.

FASEB also wishes to thank you for your and the Administration’s strong advocacy for increasing federal investment in R&D, particularly at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), National Science Foundation (NSF) and Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Science. The renewed commitment to science and innovation, particularly in the field of biomedical research, that you have expressed has breathed new life into the community of scientists working to improve health, and new hope into the lives of Americans struggling with disease.

We are grateful for and stand ready to support your efforts to encourage scientific discovery and improve the quality of life for Americans.

Sincerely,



Richard B. Marchase  
FASEB President