



Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology

— *Quality Life Through Research* —

May 5, 2010

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
Environmental Mutagen Society
International Society for
Computational Biology
American College of Sports Medicine
Biomedical Engineering Society
Genetics Society of America
American Federation for Medical
Research

President

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The Honorable David Obey
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health
and Human Services
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Todd Tiahrt
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health
and Human Services
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Obey and Ranking Member Tiahrt:

As you work to prepare the Fiscal Year 2011 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations bill, the 23 societies and more than 90,000 researchers represented by the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB) respectfully request that the budget for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) be increased to \$37 billion in order to fulfill the extraordinary promise of biomedical research.

As a result of the Subcommittee's prior investment in NIH, researchers have made critical advances in understanding basic science and saved and improved the lives of millions of Americans. For example, survival rates for childhood cancers have increased from less than 50 percent to over 80 percent and research has demonstrated that modest weight loss reduced the rate of developing type 2 diabetes by 34 percent in people at high risk for the disease.

However, additional funding is needed to maintain the pace of basic research and fully develop the knowledge we have gathered to date so that it may be applied in clinical settings. Funds from the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)* inspired the creative energies of research teams across the nation. These new resources, coming after many years during which our capacity for research was eroded by flat budgets, are a lifeline for new ideas, research personnel, and progress.

ARRA funding was only appropriated for a two year period, and we face a major shortfall when these funds have been spent. Returning to pre-ARRA funding levels will be a setback for scientific progress, as well as to those suffering from the burdens of disease. It is critical that we invest now to sustain the excitement in research and maximize the return on our prior investments.

The research engine needs a predictable, sustained investment in science to maximize our return on investment, 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 recognize that the subcommittee has the difficult task of providing funding for a wide range of critical human service programs, including medical research. Nonetheless, we urge you to increase funding for NIH to continue the innovative pipeline of medical and technological advancements that are providing hope to millions of individuals and their families suffering from the burdens of disease.

Sincerely,

President



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The Honorable Tom Harkin
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health
and Human Services
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health
and Human Services
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Harkin and Ranking Member Cochran:

As you work to prepare the Fiscal Year 2011 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations bill, the 23 societies and more than 90,000 researchers represented by the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB) respectfully request that the budget for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) be increased to \$37 billion in order to fulfill the extraordinary promise of biomedical research.

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