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Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology

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**“EXTRAORDINARY WEEK FOR NIH”
FASEB PRESIDENT PRAISES CHAIRMAN OBEY FOR NIH FUNDING MARKUP, FRANCIS
COLLINS AS SELECTION FOR DIRECTOR**

Bethesda, MD – “It has been an extraordinary week for the National Institutes of Health, with today’s House appropriations markup and the nomination of Francis Collins as Director,” said Mark O. Lively, Ph.D., President of the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB). “We are very pleased with Chairman Obey’s leadership. Not only has the subcommittee provided a funding level above that of the President’s budget, they have not allocated funding based on specific diseases. We applaud Chairman Obey, Ranking Member Tiahrt, and the other members of the subcommittee for recognizing that the best way to foster the breakthrough discoveries that lead to treatments and medical advancements is to ensure a broad investment in the highest quality science.”

FASEB plans to continue to meet with policymakers and mobilize the scientific community to convey the importance of biomedical research to improved health. “There are numerous examples of the role serendipity and fundamental research play in developing lifesaving therapies, and we intend to continue to highlight these as part of our advocacy activities. We look forward to working with Senator Harkin and other NIH champions as the appropriations process moves forward,” stated Lively.

The FASEB President also offered congratulations to Francis Collins, M.D., Ph.D. for his nomination as NIH Director. “Francis Collins will be an excellent leader for NIH,” Lively commented. “Dr. Collins is an outstanding scientist and an eloquent spokesperson for the benefits of biomedical research. I have no doubt that he will do a tremendous job representing NIH before Congress and explaining the critical role biomedical science serves in addressing our greatest health challenges.”

“He is well-suited to lead the agency through a time period of extraordinary scientific opportunity, and FASEB looks forward to working with him in his new role as NIH director,” he added. “We commend President Obama for his selection.”

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 our member societies and collaborative advocacy.