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Quality Life Through Research

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biological and biomedical
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Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology

January 18, 2011

Harvey V. Fineberg, MD, MPP, PhD
President of the Institute of Medicine
National Academy of Sciences
500 5th Street NW
Room K849
Washington, DC 20001
fineberg@nas.edu

Dear Dr. Fineberg,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology's (FASEB's) 23 scientific societies regarding Senators Udall, Bingaman, and Harkin's request that the National Academies study the current and future need for chimpanzees in biomedical research.

Chimpanzee models in research have led to major medical advances, including the development of vaccines for hepatitis A and B, which have significantly reduced the frequency of infection in the United States. And chimps continue to play an important role in medical research as they are the only animal model for hepatitis C and invaluable for testing the efficacy of monoclonal antibody therapies for non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. They are also vital for researching HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other devastating diseases.

FASEB is pleased that the Institute of Medicine (IOM) will be leading this important study. We recognize the IOM's expertise in health science policy, and we believe that the IOM is the best group to lead an in-depth, objective analysis on the scientific basis for the continued use of chimpanzees in biomedical research. We also appreciate the importance of periodically evaluating the scientific need for model organisms with which scientists work.

FASEB represents over 100,000 scientists and engineers including researchers who are extremely knowledgeable on the topic of animal models for disease and the role of primates in research. We would be happy to suggest experts for the study committee. Please feel free to call upon us if we can support this initiative in any way.

Sincerely,



William T. Talman, MD
FASEB President