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## **ELIAS ZERHOUNI ANNOUNCES HIS RESIGNATION AS NIH DIRECTOR**

*Bethesda, MD* – Elias Zerhouni has served the nation with distinction as Director of the National Institutes of Health, and his retirement from that important post marks the end of an era of strong, innovative leadership. FASEB’s President Richard Marchase called Dr. Zerhouni “a man of tremendous intellect and integrity,” noting that “in his tenure as director he guided NIH through challenging times with great vision and courage.”

Marchase also praised Zerhouni for his efforts to reach out to the public about the benefits of biomedical research. “Dr. Zerhouni is a charismatic and extremely articulate spokesman for research, able to convey his vision of the power of biomedical science to a wide range of audiences. On Capitol Hill and elsewhere he tirelessly explained how our investment in NIH was changing the landscape of medical practice, and in doing so he created new champions out of critics and skeptics.”

In assessing the Zerhouni legacy, Marchase remarked that “we may not have agreed with him on every issue, but he was always willing to engage in a dialog with those who held different views.” Marchase went on to express his appreciation of Dr. Zerhouni’s support for embryonic stem cell research and his defense of the peer review process, often in the face of strong political pressure. “This earned him the gratitude of the scientific community and all of those who appreciate the value of free and open inquiry.”

“Dr. Zerhouni will also be remembered for his many efforts on behalf of early career scientists, including new programs for postdocs and new awards for young investigators,” Marchase concluded. “We have the highest respect for his dedication to research and its power to transform health care, and we wish him continued success in his future endeavors.”

*FASEB is composed of 21 societies with more than 80,000 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 its member societies and collaborative advocacy.*