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**Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology**

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**BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH AND NIH CRITICAL TO DECLINE IN U.S. MORTALITY, SAYS  
FASEB PRESIDENT**

*Bethesda, MD* – “Americans are living longer, healthier lives and we owe much of that success to biomedical research,” said Robert Palazzo, Ph.D, President of the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB), responding to [data released](#) from the National Center for Health Statistics, which showed that U.S. life expectancy has exceeded 78 years for the first time ever. “Research funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) has had a direct impact on the health of our nation and will continue to do provided we sustain our commitment to NIH.”

Palazzo pointed to the significant declines in heart disease, cancer, and diabetes as examples of disease in which fundamental research supported by NIH played a critical role in the development of treatments. “Thanks to NIH research, millions of deaths from heart disease have been averted, millions more people have survived cancer, and deaths from diabetes have decreased dramatically,” he stated. “It is so easy to take for granted the amazing medical advances that NIH has afforded us, but many of the terminal illnesses that haunted previous generations are now treatable, and sometimes curable, conditions. When you take a moment to reflect, the life-saving discoveries funded by NIH are truly extraordinary.”

The FASEB President warned that the current grim funding climate for NIH could delay such discoveries. “NIH represents hope for those suffering from the disease of today and the emerging maladies of tomorrow,” Palazzo continued. “Alzheimer’s, a tragic condition for which we have no preemptive treatment, is now a leading cause of death. In order to ensure the breakthrough discoveries that will be key for treating Alzheimer’s, spinal cord injury, Parkinson’s disease, and other serious illnesses, it is imperative that NIH remains a national funding priority.”

For more on how biomedical research breakthroughs lead to medical advances, please visit:  
<http://opa.faseb.org/pages/Publications/breakthroughs.htm>

*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. FASEB’s mission is to advance biological science through collaborative advocacy for research policies that promote scientific progress and education and lead to improvements in human health.*