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Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology

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FASEB PRESIDENT MARCHASE ON ANNOUNCEMENT OF STUDY RELATED TO HSCRP BLOOD TEST, STATINS, AND HEART ATTACKS AND STROKE

Bethesda, MD – “Today’s headlines about the reduction in heart attack and stroke that may be achieved through use of a simple blood test and statin drugs are a powerful reminder of how biomedical research can save lives,” said Richard Marchase, Ph.D., President of the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB). “Decades of basic science underlie this discovery, much of it funded by the National Institutes of Health.”

According to Marchase, the study findings announced at a meeting of the American Heart Association are a compelling example of why sustained funding for biomedical research is so critical. “The high sensitivity C-reactive protein (HSCRP) test and statins arose from investigations of seemingly unrelated phenomenon, and illustrate how the work of dedicated, creative scientists advances medical knowledge. It would have been difficult to predict that a search for a new antibiotic or studies of proteins involved in inflammation would be so clinically relevant to cardiovascular disease. Unfortunately, it is these kinds of fundamental pursuits with their paradigm-shifting ideas that suffer when NIH funding is flat.”

More about the science behind the development of statins can be found in FASEB’s *Breakthroughs in Bioscience* article, [“Cholesterol: From biochemical riddle to blockbuster drug for heart disease.”](#) The *Breakthroughs in Bioscience* series is a collection of illustrated articles, published by FASEB, that explain recent developments in basic biomedical research and how they are important to society. To obtain free copies of these publications, visit the *Breakthroughs in Bioscience* website: <http://opa.faseb.org/pages/Publications/breakthroughs.htm>

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