



Quality Life Through Research

Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology

Member Societies

(in chronological order by date joined)

The American Physiological Society

American Society for Biochemistry
and Molecular Biology

American Society for Pharmacology
and Experimental Therapeutics

American Society for Investigative
Pathology

American Society for Nutrition

The American Association of
Immunologists

American Association of Anatomists

The Protein Society

Society for Developmental Biology

American Peptide Society

Association of Biomolecular
Resource Facilities

The American Society for Bone and
Mineral Research

American Society for Clinical
Investigation

Society for the Study of
Reproduction

Teratology Society

The Endocrine Society

The American Society of Human
Genetics

Environmental Mutagen Society

International Society for
Computational Biology

American College of Sports
Medicine

Biomedical Engineering Society

Genetics Society of America

American Federation for Medical
Research

The Histochemical Society

*Representing over 100,000
biological and biomedical
researchers.*

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Ray M. Bowen, PhD
Chairman, National Science Board
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Subra Suresh, ScD
Director, National Science Foundation
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Dear Drs. Bowen and Suresh:

On behalf of the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB), I thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the National Science Foundation's (NSF's) proposed merit review criteria. FASEB represents 24 scientific societies and over 100,000 biomedical researchers and engineers, many of whom compete for NSF grants. Our organization supports the draft review criteria, and we are especially pleased with the proposed changes to the evaluation of the broader impacts of those activities.

The current merit review criteria direct reviewers to assess how well a particular project addresses each of five separate goals. While each serves an important national need, it is not realistic to expect that every research project will make a meaningful contribution in each of these areas. Indeed, this may be especially challenging for applicants proposing important fundamental basic science projects for which, for example, the long range societal benefits may not be immediately apparent. Moreover, encouraging investigators to describe how their work advances goals that may not be relevant to their projects may distract from the effort to design and conduct the best possible research. For this reason, FASEB favors the proposed revised approach, which explicitly allows investigators to focus their projects in the priority areas in which they can make the most impact, maintains the high quality of NSF-supported science, and encourages reviewers to take into account how the range of activities supported by the agency collectively advance a broad set of national goals.

Sincerely,

Joseph C. LaManna, PhD
FASEB President