



Quality Life Through Research

## 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.*

### President

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# Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology

July 5, 2011

Richard M. Thomas  
Associate General Counsel  
Office of Government Ethics  
1201 New York Avenue, N.W. Suite 500  
Washington, DC 20005-3917

RE: RIN 3209-AA09 [Proposed Rule Exemption and Amendment Under 18 U.S.C. 208(b) (2)]

Dear Mr. Thomas:

On behalf of the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB), I thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Office of Government Ethics "Proposed Rule Exemption and Amendment Under 18 U.S.C. 208(b) (2)." FASEB represents 24 scientific societies with a collective membership of over 100,000 biomedical researchers and engineers.

We are in full support of the proposed rule change, which will facilitate the participation of federally employed scientists in their professional societies. These relationships are not only beneficial to individual scientists but also to non-profit groups, the government, and the public.

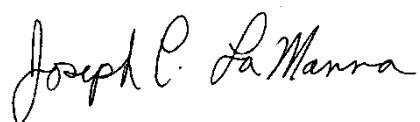
Full participation in non-profit professional activities fosters the professional development of federally employed scientists, enables them to establish relationships and collaborations with scientists with whom they ordinarily may not have contact, and allows them to maintain and advance their standing among their peers. As part of their service to these organizations, scientists are exposed to new ideas and have the opportunity to cultivate their leadership skills. It provides an invaluable source of continuing education.

The professional societies likewise benefit from the talent and perspectives of federally employed scientists. These organizations, dedicated to advancing research and education, share the public service goals of the federal government.

Federal agencies will also benefit from the new rule, as it will help them attract and maintain the highest caliber individuals in science and technical fields. This will enhance the ability of the agencies to better carry out their mission and serve the general public.

The proposed rule change has garnered widespread support from the research community. We add our wholehearted endorsement for the change and thank you for this thoughtful proposal to resolve a longstanding concern.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph C. LaManna". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "J".

Joseph C. LaManna, Ph.D.  
FASEB President