

COGR

an organization of research universities

COUNCIL ON GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

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July 9, 2007

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Leo Furcht
Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB)
9650 Rockville Pike
Bethesda MD 20814-3998

Dear Dr. Furcht,

The Council on Governmental Relations (COGR) Board representing its more than 170 member institutions and affiliated academic medical centers and research institutes, congratulates FASEB on the 2006 publication of "Shared Responsibility, Individual Integrity: Scientists Addressing Conflicts of Interest in Biomedical Research." The statement of principles and offering of voluntary standards for the conduct and management of academia-industry interactions from the scientists' perspective is a welcome addition to the on-going discussion and consideration of the impact of financial interests and relationships on the conduct of biomedical research. At its June 2007 meeting, the COGR Board considered FASEB's next steps in continuing this dialogue through the development of a Conflicts of Interest Toolkit.

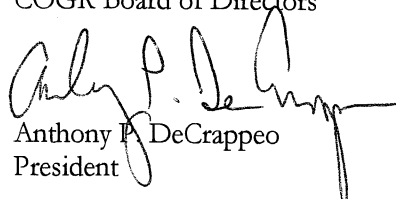
The COGR Board endorses the concept of this peer-to-peer communications and the principles upon which it is based. Members pledged to work with FASEB to complete the Toolkit and promote its use with scientists as one tool or element to use in managing conflicts of interest along with Federal and state regulations and institutional policies. When the Toolkit is complete we will be willing to promote its availability to our membership.

We look forward to continuing these discussions and providing additional specific comments on parts of the Toolkit in a manner that FASEB deems useful and appropriate. We appreciated the time Laura Brockway spent with the Board's Research Compliance and Administration Committee to discuss the Toolkit and prepare for our consideration.

Sincerely,



Jane Youngers
Chair
COGR Board of Directors



Anthony P. DeCrappeo
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Cc: Howard Garrison