

FASEB MOBILIZES SCIENTISTS TO SUPPORT INCREASE FOR NIH IN FY2008

Bethesda, MD – “I urge you to support efforts to provide an additional \$22 billion for domestic discretionary programs in FY2008” stated a letter from Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB) President Leo Furcht, M.D., sent today to the House and Senate Budget Conferees and Leadership.

“The \$22 billion in additional funding for discretionary programs would provide the appropriations committees with the flexibility necessary to increase NIH’s budget in FY2008 and to repair the cuts and freezes of recent years,” said Jon Retzlaff, FASEB’s Director of Legislative Relations.

“Since 2003, funding for medical research conducted and supported by the NIH has declined by thirteen percent in inflation-adjusted terms,” said FASEB President Furcht. “NIH has lost tremendous purchasing power; we are, quite frankly, losing our global position as the leader in science and technology. This is a trend that can and should be reversed in FY2008.”

FASEB is also activating its member society scientists working in research institutions throughout the United States, urging them to contact their Congressional representatives to support the additional \$22 billion for domestic programs and to encourage appropriations committee Chairmen Robert Byrd (D-WV) and David Obey (D-WI) to provide an allocation of \$14 billion more than last year to the Labor-HHS-Education appropriations subcommittee.

“Many new leaders in Congress have pledged their enthusiastic support for medical research and for keeping our nation’s scientific enterprise competitive,” stated Retzlaff. “We would like to see that support take shape during appropriations.” FASEB’s letter to the leadership may be read [here](#).

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’s mission is to enhance the ability of biomedical and life scientists to improve—through their research—the health, well-being and productivity of all people. FASEB serves the interests of these scientists in those areas related to public policy, facilitates coalition activities among Member Societies and disseminates information on biological research through scientific conferences and publications.