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NOTED RESEARCHER AND ACADEMIC LEADER BECOMES PRESIDENT OF FASEB

Bethesda, MD – Robert E. Palazzo, Ph.D., an expert in cell structure and function, took office as the 92nd president of the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB) on July 1, 2007. Palazzo serves as Provost of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and professor of biology, and was the founding director of the Center for Biotechnology and Interdisciplinary Studies. He will serve for one year as leader of the Federation, a coalition of 21 member societies which represents more than 80,000 biomedical research scientists worldwide.

As FASEB president, Palazzo will concentrate on promoting a long-term vision for science, focusing on where biomedical research should be in 20 years. “It is our responsibility as scientists to convey to Congress and policymakers the scientific needs for funding” said Palazzo. “Part of that means we must invest in our future, to keep our most talented science students from choosing other career paths.”

Dr. Palazzo’s research interests include centrosomes and cellular organization, mitosis and early development, cell-cycle regulation, fertilization, and cell evolution. Palazzo and his team have developed methods for the isolation of functional centrosomes from one specific phase of the meiotic cell cycle and developed a series of rapid *in vitro* assays to study centrosome assembly and function.

A graduate of Wayne State University (Ph.D., Biological Sciences), Palazzo has received many honors, including a Junior Faculty Research Award from the American Cancer Society and a National Research Award from NIH. He is a member of AAAS, ASBMB, and ASCB. In addition, Palazzo served as an editorial board member of *Biology of the Cell* for five years and spent seven years on the editorial board of *Cell Motility and the Cytoskeleton*. Prior to joining Rensselaer in 2002, Palazzo spent time as a visiting professor at Harvard University Medical School and ten years at the University of Kansas. Early in his career, he worked three years as an assistant scientist/principal investigator for the Marine Biological Laboratory and before that completed a postdoctorate at the University of Virginia.

FASEB would also like to congratulate Richard Marchase, Ph.D., who was voted FASEB President-Elect. Dr. Marchase is Vice President for Research and Economic Development at the University of Alabama-Birmingham.

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 enhances the ability of biomedical and life scientists to improve—through their research—the health, well-being and productivity of all people. FASEB’s mission is to advance biological science through collaborative advocacy for research policies that promote scientific progress and education and lead to improvements in human health.