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Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology

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FASEB UNVEILS NEW DATA RESOURCE ON EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT OF BIOMEDICAL SCIENTISTS

Bethesda, MD – The Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB) has released a new compilation of data related to the education and employment of biological and medical scientists. The presentation, which was created by Howard Garrison, Ph.D. and Kimberly McGuire of FASEB’s Office of Public Affairs, represents an overview of national survey data on many facets of scientific training and workforce development in the life sciences, including data on graduate enrollment, doctoral awards, postdoctoral appointments and employment status.

“We are hoping these graphs and figures will foster an informed discussion of education and employment in the biological and medical sciences,” said Garrison. “By bringing together the major sources of nationally representative data, these slides represent a starting point from which those interested in training or career development issues can perform additional, more in-depth analyses.”

The slides are accompanied by a one page summary of some of the trends indicated by the data, including increases in the number of graduate school applications since 2000, movement towards equity for women and underrepresented minorities, and lack of growth in the academic employment sector despite a substantial growth in the number of doctorates awarded. A number of interesting trends related to postdoctoral researchers are also highlighted, showing that the number of postdocs supported by research grants or non-federal sources has increased tremendously over the past 20 years, while the percentage of biomedical doctoral recipients with a postdoctoral appointment within 1-2 years after degree completion has declined over the last decade.

FASEB is encouraging its member society scientists, advocacy and policy partners, and other interested parties to use the graphs and figures in their own presentations or publications. According to Garrison, the information will be updated as new data become available. The FASEB training and employment data resource can be found here:

http://opa.faseb.org/pages/PolicyIssues/training_datappt.htm

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.