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Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology

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FASEB RECEIVES AWARD FROM OFFICE OF RESEARCH INTEGRITY, AN AUSPICIOUS BEGINNING FOR NEW PRESIDENT, LEO FURCHT, M.D.



Bethesda, MD – The Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB) has received a grant of more than \$112,000 from the Office of Research Integrity (ORI) to proactively address the issue of conflict-of-interest management in biomedical research. The grant, funded through a collaborative program between ORI and the Association of American Medical Colleges, is a continuation of the work detailed in a report released today by FASEB, *Shared Responsibility, Individual Integrity: Scientists Addressing Conflicts of Interest in Biomedical Research*. “There is a clear need for voluntary standards for the conduct of academia-industry interactions from the scientists’ perspective,” according to Laura Brockway, Ph.D., senior science policy analyst for FASEB and principal on the award.

Leo Furcht, M.D., who took office as the 91st FASEB President on July 1st, 2006, chaired the committee that developed the report. “We have clearly entered a new era in which interactions between academia and industry are being accompanied by public concern and scrutiny,” said Furcht. “FASEB has generated a set of guiding principles for investigators to address challenges as a result of financial relationships with industry.”

Academic-industry interactions will be only one set of issues among many that Furcht will be addressing during his year long tenure as FASEB President. “The current federal funding situation and its effect on researchers, stem cell research policies, reauthorization of NIH, impact of regulatory burden – these are all topics on which FASEB will remain engaged,” he said. “FASEB plays a critical role in bringing the perspective of the working scientist to Congress and the public, and I look forward to continuing to be a part of that.”

Furcht is currently Allen-Pardee Professor of Cancer Biology at the University of Minnesota and head of the Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology. Dr. Furcht’s research interests include cell adhesion molecules and tumor metastasis. Previously, he served as Vice Provost/Vice President for Research, Academic Health Center, University of Minnesota (Health Science Schools). Dr. Furcht received his B.S. from Columbia University and his M.D. from SUNY Upstate Medical Center, followed by a residency at the University of Minnesota. In addition, he is chairman of the Board of Directors, University of Minnesota Physicians.

FASEB also congratulates Robert E. Palazzo, Ph.D., who was voted FASEB President-Elect. Dr. Palazzo is director of the Center for Biotechnology and Interdisciplinary Studies and Acting Provost at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

To view the full report on FASEB’s website, please click [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.