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**Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology**

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**FASEB THANKS NIH AND HHS LEADERS FOR MODIFICATIONS TO CONFLICT OF INTEREST RULE**

*Bethesda, MD* – The Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB) has sent letters of appreciation to NIH Director Elias Zerhouni, MD, and HHS Secretary Michael Leavitt for the important changes made to the NIH-specific provisions of the Supplemental Standards of Ethical Conduct and Financial Disclosure Requirements for Employees of the Department of Health and Human Services. FASEB recommended the following changes, which have been adopted:

- The removal of professional associations and other science and health-related organizations from the list of entities with which NIH employees are prohibited from engaging in outside activities, allowing them to participate in important professional and scholarly activities.
- The recognition of the differences between employees as to rank, duties, and level of responsibility for matters affecting public health and patients, including limiting the applicability of the prohibited financial interest provision to senior employees.
- Modification of the outside awards limitations by applying the conflict of interest criterion to both senior and non-senior employees.

FASEB believes that the final rule will protect research integrity and permit appropriate outside involvement to the benefit of all parties—NIH, the research community, and the public.

*FASEB is composed of 23 societies with more than 65,000 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.*