



Member Societies

The American Physiological Society
American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics
American Society for Investigative Pathology
American Society for Nutrition
The American Association of Immunologists
American Association of Anatomists
The Protein Society
Society for Developmental Biology
American Peptide Society
Association of Biomolecular Resource Facilities
The American Society for Bone and Mineral Research
American Society for Clinical Investigation
Society for the Study of Reproduction
Teratology Society
The Endocrine Society
The American Society of Human Genetics
Society for Gynecologic Investigation
Environmental Mutagen Society
International Society for Computational Biology
American College of Sports Medicine

President

Leo T. Furcht, M.D.
Allen-Pardee Professor and Head
Department of Laboratory Medicine
and Pathology
University of Minnesota Medical School
420 Delaware St. SE, MMC 609
Minneapolis, MN 55455
Tel: (612) 626-0622
Fax: (612) 626-2696
furch001@umn.edu

9650 Rockville Pike
Bethesda, Maryland 20814-3998
Telephone: 301-634-7650
FAX: 301-634-7651
<http://opa.faseb.org/>

Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology

----Quality Life Through Research----

June 7, 2007

The Honorable
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative:

I write in strong support of the Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act of 2007, on behalf of the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB), a consortium of 21 scientific societies representing more than 80,000 biomedical researchers. This legislation would expand the number of embryonic stem cell lines available for federal funding and provide researchers with an even greater set of tools to combat health challenges facing our country. As Dr. Elias Zerhouni, director of our nation's premiere medical research agency, the National Institutes of Health, recently said, "It is in the best interest of our scientists, our science, our country that we find ways, that the nation finds a way, to allow the science to go full speed on both adult and embryonic stem cell research."

Embryonic stem cells not only hold enormous scientific promise, they also emblemize hope for millions of Americans suffering from conditions such as Parkinson's diseases, blindness, spinal cord injury, and diabetes. The current policy severely restricts the ability of scientists to make the breakthrough discoveries that ultimately improve the health of the American people. Congress has the opportunity today to pass a bill that can positively impact the lives of over a hundred million patients. Passing the Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act will unbind the hands of scientists, enhance medical progress, and put in place ethical guidelines to govern stem cell research.

There is no higher priority than the health and well-being of our nation. We humbly suggest it is time for Congress to honor the will of the American people. Those afflicted with debilitating diseases have been delayed relief and hope for far too long. Please ask the President to reconsider his opposition to this vital area of research by passing the Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act with overwhelming support.

Sincerely,

Leo T. Furcht, M.D.
FASEB President