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Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology

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FASEB URGES CONGRESS TO MOVE EMBRYONIC STEM CELL RESEARCH FORWARD WITHOUT DELAY

Bethesda, MD – “Embryonic stem cells not only hold enormous scientific promise, they also emblemize hope for millions of Americans suffering from disease and injury,” wrote Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB) President Leo Furcht, M.D., in a letter to Congress urging swift passage of the Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act. He went on to add, “At the dawn of a new year, Congress has the opportunity to act in the best interests of the American people by allowing this critical area of science to move forward.”

In support of Congressional leadership’s stated intention to move embryonic stem cell legislation forward in the first hundred hours of the new Congress, FASEB is contacting all members of Congress. “Embryonic stem cell research has long been a priority for the scientific community and the American people. It is gratifying to see policymakers making it a priority, as well,” said Furcht.

“Embryonic stem cells are already providing invaluable insight into the fundamental biology of disease, from diabetes to Parkinson’s disease to macular degeneration, moving us down the pathway towards solutions to our most devastating ailments,” according to Furcht. “We have delayed far too long in expanding the federal funding policy.”

FASEB is actively encouraging its members to approach Congress in support of embryonic stem cell research. “It is our hope that this Congress will finally be able to lay claim to an historic achievement in improving the health and well-being of nation. The time has come to lift the restrictions on embryonic stem cell research,” Furcht concluded.

The full FASEB letter may be read [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.