

March 10, 2006

Elias Zerhouni, M.D.  
Director, National Institutes of Health  
Building 1, Room 126  
1 Center Drive, MSC 0148  
Bethesda, MD 20892

Dear Dr. Zerhouni:

I write to express the full support and deepest appreciation of the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB) for your recent comments as published in *Research Policy Alert* (March 6, 2006). FASEB, together with our 22 member societies and the 84,000 biomedical researchers whom they represent, agree wholeheartedly with the critical need to educate the public and policymakers about the extraordinary benefits yielded through NIH funded research.

FASEB is fully engaged in championing this message, and is working to gather prime examples of the rewards of NIH investment, collected from our members' scientists and the publications produced by NIH itself. We sincerely hope that you will continue to highlight the returns of our nation's commitment to NIH in a multitude of venues, conveying the tangible health improvements resulting from medical research to the broader audience of lawmakers and the American people. We stand ready to assist you in this endeavor in any way possible.

We live in an era in which previously fatal diseases are treatable or preventable, in which long, healthy lives have become the norm rather than the exception, and hope is present for even those facing serious debilitating conditions. This is due in no small part to our investment in NIH. Thank you for taking the first steps in informing the world why we are all justifiably proud of this remarkable agency.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bruce R. Bistrain". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Bruce R. Bistrain, M.D., Ph.D.  
FASEB President