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## **FASEB Opposes Proposed Boycott Of Research And Cultural Links With Israel**

The mission of the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB) is to enhance the ability of biomedical and life scientists to improve, through their research, the health, well-being, and productivity of all people. In support of these goals, the Federation encourages the open exchange of scientific communication. Open communication and cooperation facilitate progress in science and enhance the dissemination of research findings. Both the process and the outcomes are beneficial to humanity.

We are dismayed that some members of the scientific community are willing to compromise the distinguished tradition of open communication in science by calling for a moratorium on research and cultural links with Israel. This effort, which began with an open letter in the April 6 issue of *The Guardian*, sets a dangerous precedent for the research community. We strongly oppose efforts, by governments or other groups, to curtail or limit scientific communications.

Efforts to politicize science are short sighted at best, and work against the best interest of peace and progress. In recent years, international collaborations and exchanges among scientists have been driving forces in research progress and, at the same time, have promoted social and cultural understanding.

The proposed moratorium on research and cultural links with Israeli scientists sets a dangerous precedent that will be detrimental to both science and society. This unilateral and highly partisan effort assumes collective responsibility for actions that the targets of the boycott, Israeli scientists, did not initiate. We reject in principal the policy of boycotting individual scientists in reaction to policies of their governments. Regardless of the country or group involved, it is wrong and counterproductive to isolate scientists. We would, for example, oppose boycotts of Palestinian scientists in reaction to the suicide bombings.

The proposed boycott should be resisted. It undermines the cooperative activities of science in general, and of Middle Eastern scientists in particular, and thereby cuts off one of the most powerful channels for advancing prosperity, increasing tolerance and ultimately promoting peace.

*FASEB is comprised of 21 societies with more than 60,000 members, making it the largest coalition of biomedical research associations in the United States.*