



**FASEB**

# Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology

— *Quality Life Through Research* —

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American Society for Biochemistry  
and Molecular Biology  
American Society for Pharmacology  
and Experimental Therapeutics  
American Society for Investigative  
Pathology  
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Immunologists  
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Society for the Study of Reproduction  
Teratology Society  
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Environmental Mutagen Society  
International Society for  
Computational Biology

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### *President and Board Chairman*

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October 6, 2004

The Honorable Scott Garrett  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1641 Longworth House Office Building  
Independence & New Jersey Avenues, SE  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Garrett:

As President of the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB) and on behalf of more than 66,000 biomedical researchers, I write to express concern about the amendment you recently sponsored to H.R. 4818, the 2005 Foreign Operations Appropriations Bill and to convey the importance of having America's top biomedical researchers participate in international scientific meetings.

The U.S. has thousands of experts in any one general area, such as immunology, and many of them work at the National Institutes of Health, the Centers for Disease Control and other Federal agencies. Science is highly specialized and the investigators are spread among many institutes and centers: conferences bring together researchers in different fields, who might otherwise not come into contact. Scientific meetings allow investigators opportunities to present their research findings and receive feedback from their peers. It is precisely this sort of dynamic interaction that results in new ideas, new research directions. Moreover, extensive personal communication and networking is essential to rapid progress in research. Contacts made at such forums permit collaborative research and scientific exchanges throughout the year.

In addition to experimentalists who work at the bench, it is vital that we also send some of our government program administrators to international meetings. We all want the same thing, i.e. the best research value for the taxpayer dollar. People who make strategic decisions about allocation of research resources need to have the very latest information about needs and opportunities. They coordinate multinational efforts of the kind needed to address rapidly emerging threats such as SARS, avian flu and agents of bioterror.

I understand how difficult it must be for the public to understand these needs, and hope you will work with us to correct that problem. Your dedication to the health and well being of mankind is admirable, as is your stewardship of taxpayer dollars. I ask if you would be willing to discuss

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your concerns with Dr. Elias Zerhouni, the Director of the National Institutes of Health, or others at the forefront of medical research.

I must also point out that limiting U.S. participation at international meetings will have deleterious effects on our allies. Attached is a letter I received from Sir Gustav Nossal, who is Senior Consultant to the World Health Organization and to the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. He is also Former President of the Australian Academy of Sciences. Nossal emphasizes that restrictions on U.S. scientists will not only be harmful to the fight against many diseases, but will put U.S. researchers and industries at a disadvantage relative to foreign competitors.

I thank you for your attention to this and will contact you in the future to see if it is possible for me to meet with you personally.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul W. Kincade". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "P" and "K".

Paul. W. Kincade, Ph.D.  
President