Dear Dr. Haynes,

The Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB) appreciates the opportunity to provide input on the draft 2015 National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS) Strategic Planning Framework Goals and Objectives described in Notice number NOT-GM-14-129. FASEB is composed of 27 scientific societies, collectively representing over 120,000 biological and biomedical researchers. The Federation commends NIGMS leadership for the clear, strong statement in support for basic research.

Specifically, we appreciate NIGMS’s continued commitment in support of investigator-initiated research and willingness to experiment with different funding approaches, such as the Maximizing Investigators’ Research Award, to increase the availability of researchers to pursue research activities critical to furthering our understanding of human health and disease. We also appreciate the Institute’s commitment to enhancing the research infrastructure through the support for the development and access to essential research tools and resources.

The draft 2015 Strategic Planning Framework Goals also highlight NIGMS’s role in training the next generation of biological and biomedical researchers. FASEB applauds this continued commitment. We encourage NIGMS leadership to work with the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Office of the Director on initiatives to broaden the exposure of students to the skills and experiences they will need for success in a wide range of careers, particularly early in their training, as well as to promote initiatives at the postdoctoral fellow and early career scientist stages to ensure their continued success.

In conclusion, FASEB appreciates NIGMS’s willingness to engage the research community in the development of its five-year strategic plan and we look forward to working with the Institute’s leadership on its implementation.

Sincerely,

Joseph R. Haywood, PhD
FASEB President