December 30, 2015

The Honorable Roy Blunt, Chairman
Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Subcommittee
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations
136 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Blunt:

The $2 billion increase in funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) that you included in the fiscal year (FY) 2016 omnibus appropriations bill recognizes the importance of biomedical research for the nation’s future and is a critical step in reversing the loss of purchasing power the agency has experienced over the last decade. Thanks to your outstanding and committed leadership, NIH received its most significant increase since 2003. The Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB) is very grateful for your willingness to designate biomedical research as a top priority in 2016.

Your efforts to promote the promise of biomedical research and build bipartisan support among your Senate colleagues for a substantial increase in the nation’s investment in NIH in FY 2016 are a model for future collaborations on Capitol Hill. The subcommittee hearings with NIH leadership in April and October, in addition to your excellent op-eds in The Hill in June and the St. Louis Post-Dispatch in November, informed the public about the role of research in addressing our nation’s growing health concerns, advancing medical innovation, and sustaining America’s competitiveness. We were delighted to share these articles on FASEB’s social media channels and with our member societies.

Thank you again for being a true champion for medical research. The $2 billion increase for NIH is a wonderful holiday present for the research community and will provide the budget stability necessary to supported continued progress. We look forward to working with you on future initiatives in support of biomedical research. Best wishes for a happy holiday season.

Sincerely,

Parker B. Antin, PhD
FASEB President