FASEB Statement on International Moratorium on Clinical Application of Germline Editing

The Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB) supports the call for an international moratorium on all clinical uses of heritable genome editing. As noted in FASEB’s 2018 statement in response to the claim of gene-edited human embryos, gene editing is a powerful, yet relatively untested scientific technique, for which further studies are necessary to demonstrate safety and specificity before it is applied in experiments in human embryos. Therefore we join scientific leaders, including the National Institutes of Health, in supporting a moratorium of such work and establishing an international framework for determining the ethical and experimental parameters under which gene-editing research in human germline cells might be allowed to resume.

Approved by FASEB Executive Committee on March 18, 2019