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NEW FASEB PRESIDENT, RICHARD MARCHASE, DESCRIBES PRIORITIES FOR UPCOMING YEAR

Bethesda, MD – Richard B. Marchase, Ph.D. took office as the 93rd president of the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB) on July 1, 2008. Marchase serves as the Vice President for Research at the University of Alabama at Birmingham and professor of cell biology. FASEB is a coalition of 21 member societies which represents more than 80,000 biomedical research scientists worldwide.

“The upcoming Presidential election and the incoming administration present unique opportunities to highlight the importance of biomedical research on a national scale,” said Marchase, who plans to continue to spearhead FASEB’s efforts to engage voters on critical science policy issues. “It is vital that our nation’s leaders recognize the value of agencies like the National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation. I look forward to working with Congress and the new Administration to build a sustainable commitment for scientific research.”

Marchase pointed to recent appropriations bills from Congress that include increased funding for science as evidence that research is gaining ground as a national priority. “However, as FASEB President, funding is not going to be my only focus,” he continued. “With public funding comes a justifiable need for accountability in how these funds are used. The challenge is in establishing systems that ensure the public trust in a manner that does not create unnecessary regulatory burdens nor unduly delay scientific progress. FASEB will be addressing these issues on a number of fronts over the next year, from biosecurity to conflict-of-interest to animal and human subjects protection.”

Dr. Marchase has several active awards from the National Institutes of Health for research infrastructure and to support his laboratory, which studies the effects of hyperglycemia on recovery from trauma. A graduate of The John’s Hopkins University (Ph.D., Biophysics), Marchase has received many honors in his career including one of the inaugural Presidential Young Investigator Awards from the National Science Foundation. He moved to the University of Alabama at Birmingham in 1986, and from 1990 to 2000 served as Chair of the Department of Cell Biology. Marchase is a member of American Association of Anatomists and has served as a member of their Public Affairs Committee and represented them at FASEB Funding Consensus Conferences prior to his joining the FASEB Board of Directors in 2002. He served as President of the Association of Anatomy, Cell Biology, and Neurobiology Chairs and as that group’s representative to the National Caucus of Basic Biomedical Science Chairs.

FASEB would also like to congratulate Mark O. Lively, Ph.D., who was voted FASEB President-Elect. Dr. Lively is a professor of biochemistry at Wake Forest University (WFU) School of Medicine and director of the WFU Biomolecular Resource Laboratory.

FASEB is composed of 21 societies with more than 80,000 members, making it the largest coalition of biomedical research associations in the United States. FASEB enhances the ability of biomedical and life scientists to improve—through their research—the health, well-being and productivity of all people. FASEB’s mission is to

advance biological science through collaborative advocacy for research policies that promote scientific progress and education and lead to improvements in human health.