

## Member Societies

The American Physiological Society  
 American Society for Biochemistry and  
 Molecular Biology  
 American Society for Pharmacology and  
 Experimental Therapeutics  
 American Society for Investigative  
 Pathology  
 American Society for Nutrition  
 The American Association of  
 Immunologists  
 American Association of Anatomists  
 The Protein Society  
 Society for Developmental Biology  
 American Peptide Society  
 Association of Biomolecular Resource  
 Facilities  
 The American Society for Bone and  
 Mineral Research  
 American Society for Clinical  
 Investigation  
 Society for the Study of Reproduction  
 Teratology Society  
 The Endocrine Society  
 The American Society of Human  
 Genetics  
 Society for Gynecologic Investigation  
 Environmental Mutagen Society  
 International Society for  
 Computational Biology  
 American College of Sports Medicine  
 Biomedical Engineering Society

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April 21, 2009

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
 U.S. House of Representatives  
 H-232 Capitol Building  
 Washington, DC 20002

Dear Speaker Pelosi:

On behalf of the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB), I am writing to express my sincere appreciation for the comments you made about the need to sustain funding for basic research beyond the investments that were made in the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)* during your recent tour of the Mission Bay campus of the University of California. As a coalition representing 90,000 biomedical researchers and 22 scientific societies, FASEB was especially pleased by the report in the *Sacramento Business Journal* in which you noted the need for an ongoing commitment to funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH). We must ensure that we do not have to dismantle our newly built capacity and terminate valuable, ongoing research after the ARRA money is spent. In 2011 and beyond we need to be able to continue to pursue the new directions begun under the ARRA.

Last month FASEB issued our annual funding recommendation for NIH, urging Congress to increase funding for the agency by seven percent in fiscal year 2010. The seven percent increase is an important step toward President Obama's campaign pledge to double funding for basic research over ten years and is necessary to maintain both the existing and future scientific infrastructure. The discovery process—while producing tremendous value—often takes a lengthy and unpredictable path. Recent experience has demonstrated how cyclical periods of rapid funding growth followed by periods of stagnation are disruptive to long range projects, to training and scientific careers, and ultimately to progress. NIH needs sustainable and predictable budget growth to achieve the full promise of medical research to improve the health and longevity of all Americans.

I would like to take this opportunity to again thank you and your colleagues in Congress for your generosity in providing the resources that are essential for progress in science, as well as for the recognition of the role science plays in securing our prosperity. These are difficult times for this nation and for people all around the globe, but the affirmation of science as the key to a better future is a major step forward.

Sincerely,



Richard B. Marchase, Ph.D.  
 President