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Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**FASEB MARC PROGRAM ANNOUNCES THE RECIPIENTS OF THE 2008
POSTDOCTORAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND ENRICHMENT AWARD**

Bethesda, MD – The FASEB MARC (Minority Access to Research Careers) Program is pleased to announce the selection of six early career scientists as recipients of the 2008 FASEB Postdoctoral Professional Development and Enrichment Award. The FASEB Postdoctoral Professional Development and Enrichment Award (funded by a grant from the National Institute of General Medical Sciences, National Institutes of Health) was established to recognize outstanding achievement by an early career life scientist from an underrepresented minority group. These awards are primarily intended for advanced postdoctoral fellows or new assistant professors who will be able to utilize these resources to gain knowledge, skills and training to enrich their competitiveness for research funding, publication in top tier journals and employment in prestigious research intensive settings.

The six recipients of the 2008 award are:

- **Juan Leon, Ph.D.**, an Assistant Professor in the Hubert Department of Global Health, Emory University (*AAI member*)
- **Farah Lubin, Ph.D.**, a Postdoctoral Fellow in the Department of Neurobiology at the University of Alabama at Birmingham (*APS member*)
- **Octavia M. Peck Palmer, Ph.D.**, an Assistant Professor of Pathology at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine (*APS member*)
- **Rita Serda, Ph.D.**, a Postdoctoral Fellow in the Department of Biomedical Engineering at the University of Texas Health Science Center in Houston (*ASBMB member*)
- **David J. Vigerust, Ph.D.**, a Senior Research Fellow in the Pediatric Infections Disease Department at Vanderbilt University (*AAI member*)
- **Courtney Woods, Ph.D.**, a Postdoctoral Fellow in the Division of Computational Systems Biology at The Hamner Institutes for Health Sciences (*ISCB member*)

Recipients of the award receive a \$3,000 unrestricted career development award and a certificate of recognition. In addition, a travel award up to \$2,450 is provided to each award winner to support his/her participation in a national scientific meeting. The FASEB MARC Program will make these awards for the first time in 2008.

For more information, please visit The FASEB Postdoctoral Development and Enrichment Award website: <http://www1.faseb.org/postdocprofdevaward/>. The [FASEB MARC Program](#) is funded by a grant from the National Institute of General Medical Sciences, National Institutes of Health. A primary goal of the MARC Program is to increase the number and competitiveness of underrepresented minorities engaged in biomedical and behavioral research.

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. Our mission is to advance health and welfare by promoting progress and education in biological and biomedical sciences through service to its member societies and collaborative advocacy.