FASEB MAKES FINAL PUSH IN SUPPORT OF NIH FUNDING FOR FY2007

Bethesda, MD – There is still time for constituents to contact Congress regarding the vital importance of funding the National Institutes of Health (NIH), according to the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB). “As Congress prepares to use this weekend to finalize the FY2007 full-year continuing resolution, we are asking our societies’ scientists to inundate Congress over the next 24 hours with the message to support an increase for NIH,” said Jon Retzlaff, FASEB Director of Legislative Relations. “Thousands of scientists across the country have already spoken out in support of funding for NIH in FY2007, and our message is being heard, but we need to make one final push to ensure medical research remains a high priority.”

“This is a critical moment in our effort to make progress in science and medicine,” said Leo Furcht, M.D., FASEB President. “To halt the decline of our global position as the leader in biomedical research, NIH needs to be a priority for FY2007. We want to make certain that every member of Congress knows how crucial it is to fund NIH in order to support the scientific breakthroughs and discoveries that can improve the lives of millions of people.”

FASEB is hopeful that Congressional leaders will recognize the vital role NIH plays in advancing the health of our nation. “We would like to especially thank Senators Arlen Specter (R-PA) and Tom Harkin (D-IA), who have been diligent champions for NIH and continue to promote the valuable work of this agency,” said Furcht. “We are proud to join our voice with theirs, and that of the American people, in ensuring the continued success of NIH.”

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’s mission is to enhance the ability of biomedical and life scientists to improve—through their research—the health, well-being and productivity of all people. FASEB serves the interests of these scientists in those areas related to public policy, facilitates coalition activities among Member Societies and disseminates information on biological research through scientific conferences and publications.