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FASEB RELEASES FY2008 FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SCIENCE AGENCIES

Bethesda, MD – The Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB) has released its annual report to Congress, Federal Funding for Biomedical & Related Life Sciences Research, FY 2008. “A major theme of this report and FASEB’s advocacy efforts over the upcoming year will be sustainability of the scientific enterprise,” said FASEB President Leo T. Furcht, M.D. “Only through predictable federal funding streams will we be able to maintain steady research progress to continue to improve the health of our nation and quality of our lives.” Below are the recommendations for the six agencies described in the report.

National Institutes of Health (NIH)
FASEB recommends a FY2008 appropriation level that would set the National Institutes of Health on a 3-year track to recoup the losses caused by biomedical research inflation.

National Science Foundations (NSF)
FASEB recommends an appropriation of $6.5 billion for the National Science Foundation in FY2008.

Department of Energy (DOE)

Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)
FASEB recommends an appropriation of $480 million for the VA Medical and Prosthetics Research Program and an increase in research infrastructure support to $45 million in FY2008.

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)
FASEB recommends an appropriation of $248 million for the USDA National Research Initiative and $1.377 billion for the Agriculture Research Service in FY2008.

National Aeronautics and Space Agency (NASA)
FASEB requests that Congress provide NASA with an increase of at least $39.5 million for biological sciences research in FY2008 to partially restore the deep cuts made in the life sciences budget in the two previous fiscal years. Subsequent increases in funding should be contingent upon the implementation of the organizational changes outlined in this report.

The recommendations will be finalized upon completion of the FY2007 appropriations process, as well as publication of new indices for biomedical research inflation, and the annual report will be distributed to federal lawmakers, health-research officials in the administration, and the research community. It will serve as the basis for FASEB’s research funding advocacy efforts for the next fiscal year. For a print copy of the report, call (301) 634-7650 and one will be mailed to you as soon as final copies are available. A pre-publication copy of the report is also available online at http://opa.faseb.org/pdf/final_funding_fy2008.pdf.

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.