



# FASEB

Federation of American Societies  
for Experimental Biology

## Representing Over 115,000 Researchers

6120 Executive Blvd., Suite 230, Rockville, MD 20852 | [faseb.org](http://faseb.org)

January 30, 2023

Suzanne H. Plimpton  
Reports Clearance Officer, National Science Foundation  
2415 Eisenhower Avenue, Suite W18200  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Submitted electronically via email: [splimpto@nsf.gov](mailto:splimpto@nsf.gov)

Dear Ms. Plimpton,

Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB) supports the information collection, announced in the [Federal Register](#) on November 29, 2022, to assess implementation of National Science Foundation's (NSF's) terms and conditions pertaining to harassment and sexual assault at awardee institutions. Representing over 115,000 individual researchers and 28 member societies, FASEB has [long supported](#) NSF's efforts to ensure research environments are free of hostile behavior. The human aspect of science must be taken into account; emotional, mental, and physical wellbeing are imperative to producing quality work. The proposed information collection will enable NSF to thoroughly investigate how the recently updated terms and conditions are being implemented at awardee institutions and if adjustments are needed to improve efficacy. FASEB applauds this evaluation effort and awareness that creating effective policies to reduce harassment may be an iterative process.

The June 2022 [study of anti-harassment policies, guidelines, and communications](#) showed some promising results. Almost 95 percent of institutions of higher education had an anti-harassment policy publicly available online. While only 22 percent of non-profits did the same, FASEB is proud to have its [anti-discrimination and harassment policy](#) accessible. Furthermore, all FASEB Scientific Research Conferences link to FASEB's [conference code of conduct](#), which details unacceptable behavior and reporting processes.

While communication of NSF's updated terms and conditions was strong during their development and initial implementation, it has become less targeted and frequent over time. Overall, very few organizations reference NSF's anti-harassment policies on public webpages. To increase awareness of NSF's efforts to reduce hostile scientific spaces, FASEB has [added this information to its website](#) as a vital resource for biological and biomedical researchers. The Federation supports NSF's vision to create and maintain safe and welcoming research environments, and looks forward to additional actionable recommendations that may result from the proposed data collection and analysis.

Sincerely,

Kevin C. Kregel, PhD  
FASEB President

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