

Statement of Support for the National Primate Research Centers

February 3, 2026

Comprised of seven facilities located around the country, National Primate Research Centers (NPRCs) are vital components of the U.S. biomedical research ecosystem. NPRCs support efforts to advance human and animal health while upholding the highest standards of ethical conduct and animal welfare. The Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB) strongly endorses federal support for the NPRCs and urges policymakers to engage with researchers from across the scientific community, consider the full scope of evidence, and recognize the essential role NPRCs play in advancing health and maintaining rigorous animal welfare standards.

Research conducted at the NPRCs addresses complex biological questions that are fundamental to understanding and treating many of today's most serious health challenges, including infectious diseases, neurological disorders, chronic conditions, reproductive health, and aging. Through this work, the NPRCs have demonstrated a strong record of biomedical discovery, with advances¹ that include:

- Development and evaluation of vaccines and therapies for HIV/AIDS, COVID-19, Zika virus, Tuberculosis, and other infectious diseases;
- Improved understanding of chronic and neurodegenerative diseases, including diabetes, Alzheimer's disease, and Parkinson's disease;
- Novel approaches to organ transplantation and other life-saving medical procedures; and
- Tools that support the advancement of personalized medicine and more targeted patient care.

The NPRCs consistently demonstrate a strong commitment to animal welfare, transparency, and accountability. These centers invest significant resources in veterinary care, behavioral management, enrichment programs, and continuous improvement of animal welfare practices. NPRCs also incorporate new approach methodologies (NAMs), where scientifically appropriate, enabling refinement of research protocols and reduction in animal use and ensuring nonhuman primate research is conducted only when scientifically necessary and ethically justified. This approach aligns with FASEB's long-standing position that responsible animal research and high standards of care are fundamental to scientific integrity and public trust.

Despite their value to science and public health, NPRCs face political and legislative threats, driven by misinformation about the role of animal research and the safeguards that govern it. Of particular concern are current state efforts targeting the Oregon National Primate Research Center, a founding member of the NRPC network and a nationally recognized center for primate research and care. Proposals to restrict or eliminate funding or to force closure of NPRCs would undermine ongoing federally funded research, disrupt scientific careers, and weaken the nation's capacity to respond to current and future health challenges.

FASEB is concerned that efforts to dismantle or defund NPRCs risk substituting ideology for evidence-based policymaking. The elimination of critical research infrastructure – absent of scientifically validated alternatives capable of addressing the same complex biological questions – would slow biomedical progress and compromise U.S. leadership in research and innovation.

¹ [FAQs | NRPC.org](http://FAQs.NPRC.org)