



FASEB Applauds Legal Ruling Concerning Illegal Termination of NIH Grants

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FASEB is pleased with the June 16 bench ruling from U.S. District Court judge William D. Young indicating directives that led to the recent termination of specific grants issued by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) were “arbitrary and capricious” and had “no force and effect.” Although the judge’s ruling will not immediately re-instate the terminated grants, it is an important first step in ensuring that scientists from rural and economically disadvantaged communities as well as those underrepresented in biomedical research have access to funding to pursue research-intensive careers.

The district court ruling is a critical victory even as the case continues to move through the legal process over the next few months. NIH filed an appeal in response to Judge Young’s ruling and is expected to ask the appellate court to stay the district court’s decision.

In May, FASEB [joined](#) the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (ASBMB), the American Society for Cell Biology (ASCB), the American Society for Microbiology (ASM), and 7 other leading life science organizations on an amicus brief asking the court to hold recent executive orders resulting in termination of grants supporting young scientists as unlawful and to order NIH to restore funding speedily as requested in *American Public Health Association v. NIH*. ASBMB, ASCB, ASM, and FASEB represent four of five organizations funded to support professional development through the NIH Maximizing Opportunities for Scientific and Academic Independent Careers (MOSAIC) grant program. FASEB’s decision to join as an *amicus* was in line with the Board of Director’s decision to engage in expanded legal advocacy in this challenging environment for science.

“The MOSAIC program supports the development of a talent pool that is prepared to advance scientific inquiry as well as give back to the research community. Terminating the merit-based MOSAIC program as part of the administration’s implementation of questionable executive orders not only stymies innovation; it has stalled the careers of the next generation of researchers,” said Beth Garvy, FASEB President. “FASEB is encouraged that the court’s ruling takes a critical step forward in restoring funding that was awarded following a competitive peer-reviewed process and will not back down from our advocacy on behalf of the scientific community.”