



FASEB

Federation of American Societies
for Experimental Biology

Representing Over 130,000 Researchers

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November 4, 2021

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, Strategic Planning Team
Attn: Strategic Plan Comments
200 Independence Avenue, SW, Room 434E
Washington, DC 20201
Transmitted electronically via email: HHSPlan@hhs.gov

Dear HHS Strategic Planning Team,

The Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the [Department of Health and Human Services' \(HHS\) draft strategic plan for fiscal years 2022 – 2026](#). As noted in the introductory material of the draft plan, HHS fulfills its mission to enhance the health and well-being of Americans through a wide spectrum of programs and initiatives. While all five of the proposed strategic goal areas are laudable and contribute to this broad mission, our comments focus on Strategic Goal 4: Restore Trust and Accelerate Advancements in Science and Research For All, specifically [Strategic Objective 4.2](#), which emphasizes investment in the research enterprise and scientific workforce to maintain leadership in health-related discovery and innovation.

We are in an era of remarkable opportunities for scientific discovery, many of which are spearheaded by agencies within HHS. The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the importance of predictable and sustained funding for biomedical research. Equally important is the development and retention of a diverse and inclusive scientific workforce to ensure continued progress towards fulfilling Strategic Objective 4.2. FASEB supports the specific strategies outlined within this objective and urges the Department to engage the stakeholder community in creative strategies to recruit and retain talented scientists in the federally supported workforce, both intramural and extramural.

Open and transparent operations ensure proper stewardship of federal funds and promote public trust in the federal research enterprise. We encourage HHS to continue efforts to harmonize and streamline administrative processes, both internally as well as in alignment with other federal agencies. FASEB fully appreciates the importance of regulatory oversight and compliance to ensure the quality and integrity of research findings and foster public trust in science. Similarly, the Department should strive to streamline and unify communications related to research and public health outcomes to minimize stakeholder confusion and frustration.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this feedback on the draft HHS strategic plan for fiscal years 2022 – 2026. FASEB looks forward to working with the Department on implementation of these laudable goals and objectives.

Sincerely,

Patricia L. Morris, MS, PhD
FASEB President