



FASEB

Federation of American Societies
for Experimental Biology

Representing Over 130,000 Researchers

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Advisory Committee to the Director
National Institutes of Health
c/o Gretchen Wood
One Center Drive, Room 126
Bethesda, MD 20892-0147

Submitted electronically via email: woodgs@od.nih.gov

Dear Committee Members,

The Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB) was pleased by the emphasis on preventing the “pass the harasser” practice among higher education institutions in the [recent update](#) from the Working Group on Changing the Culture to End Sexual Harassment. Clarifying [language](#) in the NIH Grants Policy Statement indicates that NIH should be notified if a requested change in Principal Investigator/key personnel or recipient institution is related to concerns of harassment.

This update allows NIH to leverage existing grants management processes to identify serial harassers. Furthermore, access to knowledge of the reason for moving institutions will help interrupt the practice of individuals moving institutions due to harassment concerns without the new institution being aware of the dangerous behavior. As noted in the National Academies report, “passing the harasser” is far too prevalent. FASEB appreciates NIH taking actions to protect victims and bystanders by requiring additional information regarding change in personnel or institutional status to prevent serial harassers from moving institutions without repercussions.

Promising progress has been made in the six months since the release of the Working Group’s [Final Report](#). The urgency of addressing recommendations to increase transparency and accountability is commendable and highlights NIH’s commitment to foster harassment-free research and training environments. FASEB looks forward to further implementation of recommendations, particularly those providing independence to trainees.

FASEB thanks the Advisory Committee to the Director Working Group on Changing the Culture to End Sexual Harassment for its assiduous efforts to begin implementation of the recommendations. These vast issues are not simple to resolve, and we value the care and considerations displayed thus far to address the pervasiveness of harassment in research environments. We look forward to continued stakeholder engagement during implementation of the remainder of recommendations.

Sincerely,

Louis B. Justement, PhD
FASEB President

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