



# FASEB

Federation of American Societies  
for Experimental Biology

*Representing Over 130,000 Researchers*

301.634.7000  
www.faseb.org

9650 Rockville Pike  
Bethesda, MD 20814

August 13, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Minority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leaders McConnell, McCarthy, and Schumer:

The Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB), a coalition of 29 biological and biomedical societies collectively representing over 130,000 individual scientists and engineers, commends Congress for working in a bipartisan manner earlier this year to address the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. As you continue negotiations on another bill to provide additional funding for federal agencies, we urge you to finalize an agreement that provides at least \$15.5 billion for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) as proposed in the Health Education and Liability Protection and Schools (HEALS) Act. In addition, it is essential that the next COVID package include supplemental resources for the National Science Foundation (NSF).

Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, investments in the biological sciences are more critical than ever to respond to the current crisis, prevent future outbreaks, and develop new treatments. NIH has already made important contributions to our understanding of coronavirus. Researchers funded by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease (NIAID) found that SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, can be detected in aerosols and on surfaces for longer periods of time than previously expected, providing critical information to help prevent infection. NIH is also supporting a public-private partnership to rapidly develop a SARS-CoV-2 vaccine.

Funds included in the coronavirus package passed by Congress in March allowed NSF to expand its Rapid Response Research (RAPID) grant program that supports near real-time research at the cellular, physiological, and ecological levels to better understand the spread of COVID-19. Since March, NSF has received thousands of inquiries for research support via RAPID. With additional supplemental funding, NSF could enable broader-scope projects that build on the knowledge already acquired and sustain greater collaboration and coordination activities.

Scientific discovery and the reliance on scientific data have provided the foundation for tremendous technological and societal advances in the US before and during the current pandemic. It is critical that Congress provide another infusion of funds for NIH and NSF to continue the development of vaccines and therapies, resume research that was interrupted due to lab closures, and support early career researchers who have been especially impacted by COVID-related disruptions.



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Sincerely,

Louis B. Justement, PhD  
FASEB President

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**Full members:** The American Physiological Society • American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology • American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics • American Society for Investigative Pathology • American Society for Nutrition • The American Association of Immunologists • American Association for Anatomy Society for Developmental Biology • American Peptide Society • Association of Biomolecular Resource Facilities • The American Society for Bone and Mineral Research American Society for Clinical Investigation • Society for the Study of Reproduction • The Society for Birth Defects Research & Prevention • The Endocrine Society • American College of Sports Medicine • Genetics Society of America • The Histochemical Society • Society for Glycobiology • Association for Molecular Pathology • Society for Redox Biology and Medicine • Society For Experimental Biology and Medicine • American Aging Association • U. S. Human Proteome Organization • Society of Toxicology • Society for Leukocyte Biology • American Federation for Medical Research • Environmental Mutagenesis and Genomics Society **Associate members:** The American Society of Human Genetics