

SPC to Hold Face-to-Face Meeting to Plan FASEB's 2002-2003 Science Policy Agenda

On Oct. 2-3, members of FASEB's Science Policy Committee (SPC) will gather on the Bethesda, Md., campus to map out the organization's science policy agenda for the coming year. Among the issues to be discussed are the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) investment criteria.

Earlier this year, OMB issued draft guidelines for measuring the effectiveness of federal financing of basic scientific research as part of President Bush's plan to hold federal agencies more accountable for the money they receive. Some scientists feel that aspects of the plan are vague and worry that the proposal could under fund research at universities and other institutions that takes years to pay off. An SPC subcommittee is exploring the issue from the perspective of the individual investigator.

Thomas Reilly, Ph.D., the director of OMB's Public Health Branch of the Health Division Human Resource Program, will talk to the SPC about this issue on the second day of the meeting. Dr. Reilly's office is one of four resource management offices at OMB. These offices play a pivotal role in the annual negotiations with Congress over federal fiscal policies and provide ongoing policy and management guidance to federal agencies. Dr. Reilly is also the designated federal officer for the newly inaugurated Performance Measurement Advisory Council (PMAC), which is charged with assisting OMB in matters related to improving the measurement of program performance and integrating this information in management and budget decisions.

The SPC face-to-face meeting will commence Wednesday evening with a dinner, featuring a presentation by Office of Public Affairs Director Howard H. Garrison on how the SPC fits into FASEB's public policy activities. The following morning, after Dr. Reilly's presentation, the committee will consider new issues to incorporate into FASEB's public policy agenda, including:

- ◆ **Training and Career Issues.** The growth in the size of many labs, and the more complex teams required for biomedical research, may be creating new roles beyond the traditional categories of "principal investigator" and "trainee." How prevalent is this pattern, and do we need to formally recognize new categories of personnel?
- ◆ **Technology Transfer and Sharing Resources.** The recent problems many scientists are encountering in their attempts to obtain embryonic stem cell lines illustrate the ongoing difficulties that researchers face obtaining materials and resources.
- ◆ **Sensitive Homeland Security Information.** OMB is developing guidance on a new category of information, referred to as "sensitive homeland security information." This is information that is not clearly distinguished as "classified" or "non-classified." OMB has asked for FASEB's advice on what should be the scope of the information that will fall into this category and the need for a new category.

During and after lunch, committee members will divide into breakout groups to discuss possible new initiatives in more depth, identify those that inspire subcommittee action and explore possible courses of action. At the end of the day, they will summarize the major areas of interest. Details on the SPC's agenda will be published in future issues of the *FASEB News* and on FASEB's Web site. **FN**

FASEB Issues IDP for Postdoc Fellows

FASEB has created an Individual Development Plan (IDP) for postdoctoral students, designed to help them – along with a mentor – identify long-term career objectives and short-term needs for improving their current performance.

The Scientist has published a series of articles on FASEB's IDP. The first, written by FASEB Science Policy Committee (SPC) member R. Julian Preston, appeared in the Sept. 9 issue and discussed the rationale for such a document. "Principal investigators should ideally help equip postdoctoral fellows for careers, but this advisory role often receives few resources and little attention," Dr. Preston wrote.

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FASEB Executive Director to Retire

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Sidney H. Golub

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Johns Hopkins Stem Cell Researcher Uses Expertise to Inform Policy Discussions

In June, Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-Utah), a key Senate sponsor of legislation to permit nuclear transplantation to produce stem cells (often referred to as therapeutic cloning), contacted FASEB seeking scientific experts on the front lines of stem cell research to discuss the promise of the laboratory technique right away.



Curt I. Civin

Responding to an urgent plea from FASEB's Office of Public Affairs, Curt I. Civin, M.D. (the Samuelson Professor of Oncology and Pediatrics and Co-Director of the Division of Immunology and Hematopoiesis in the Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine) agreed to catch a train the next morning for an hour-long meeting with Senator Hatch. Dr. Civin, who is a member of The American Society of Hematology and the American Society for Clinical Investigation, discussed the scientific issues surrounding this exciting new procedure and argued persuasively against any federal prohibition on nuclear transplantation.

The Senator urged Dr. Civin to persuade his colleagues to voice their opposition to a ban and to respond to scientific mischaracterizations of the research from opponents. In the weeks since, Dr. Civin has done just that – and more.

Curt Civin's career demonstrates the power and promise of what Senator Hatch often refers to as the emerging field of regenerative medicine. It's a field upon which the Senator has staked his support and his reputation. Thousands of patients have been treated successfully with stem cell transplants enabled by Dr. Civin's research and clinical expertise as a pediatric oncologist. The transplants were made possible by Dr. Civin's discovery of the CD34 monoclonal antigen and antibody which enabled scientists to identify and isolate hematopoietic stem cells, the precursors of blood, marrow, and immune cells.

The CD34 antibody binds to an antigen, also developed by Dr. Civin, on the surface of stem cells. CD34 acts like a magnet, attracting and separating these stem cells from all other blood and immune cells. Cancer therapies, such as chemotherapy and radiation therapy, damage and often destroy blood cells and the immune system, leaving patients vulnerable to infections and other life-threatening complications. By giving patients these specially-collected stem cells through a transplant, the body's immune system can be renewed, enabling patients to handle more aggressive and potentially curative therapies. The CD34 monoclonal antibody is also widely used in stem cell research. Dr. Civin received the National Inventor of Year Award in 1999 for his achievement.

Like many of his colleagues in the adult stem cell field, Dr. Civin believes that major advances in adult stem cell research are dependent on basic research on embryonic stem cells. This passionate belief – and Senator Hatch's plea for help from scientists to advocate against legislative efforts to delay or derail promising research – have inspired Dr. Civin to action in recent weeks. Dr. Civin sent a follow-up letter to Senator Hatch outlining the scientific benefits of nuclear transplantation in greater detail. He contacted a number of his colleagues, among the most prominent scientists in the field, convincing them that they must express their opposition to a ban. He urged them to write Senator Hatch and address specific scientific mischaracterizations of the research based on their own expertise. These actions have contributed substantially to efforts to protect this vital research.

As the speed of scientific discovery has accelerated in recent years, many have expressed concern about the social and ethical implications of future advances. A sizeable and vocal segment has sought to retard progress by advocating wholesale prohibitions of research. Dr. Civin's invaluable advocacy and experience are helping to refocus debate away from abstract principles and onto the science of healing people. **FN**

FASEB Executive Director Announces Retirement

FASEB Executive Director Sidney H. Golub, Ph.D., has announced his plans to retire from FASEB in the summer of 2003. The final year of his tenure will be focused on the expansion and renovation of the FASEB campus, including construction of a new office building, a new parking facility and coordination of a capital fund-raising campaign, he said. Following his service at FASEB, Dr. Golub said he plans to return to California to engage in a combination of “teaching, travel, writing, consulting and lots of reading.”

Dr. Golub came to FASEB in July 1999, following 28 years as a faculty member of the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). He started there as an assistant professor at the School of Medicine, rose to full professor in the departments of surgery and microbiology and immunology and served as the associate dean for academic affairs of the UCLA School of Medicine for six years. After more than two years as the interim dean of medicine and provost for medical sciences at UCLA, he moved to UC-Irvine where he served as executive vice-chancellor for four years.

FASEB provides support services to scientists and their professional organizations, such as meeting management, printing and graphics, publishing, financial services and logistic support; and as need have changed, these services have evolved throughout Dr. Golub’s arrival. During his tenure at FASEB, the organization grew, from 18 member societies to 21; *The FASEB Journal* pioneered new methods of electronic

publication; and, the “Beaumont” campus in Bethesda, Md., home to the FASEB offices and the offices of 11 member societies, initiated a major renovation and expansion project.

“It has been very fulfilling, as well as great fun, to be part of FASEB at this exciting time in the history of science,” Dr. Golub said. “FASEB’s impact on public policy as the voice of the working scientist and its ability to help biomedical scientists to fulfill their goals by advocacy for better research funding are some of the most worthwhile things to do that I can imagine. I expect to remain active and connected with this wonderful organization in the future.”

FASEB Past-President Robert R. Rich, who was President when Dr. Golub informed the Board of Directors, said, “FASEB has been very fortunate to have an Executive Director with Sid Golub’s experience and vision. He brought to the position those most important qualities of professionalism and personal integrity. We are immensely grateful for his many contributions. Sid will leave the Federation in outstanding shape – stronger and more widely respected than ever. He will always have friends on the FASEB Board and on the Beaumont campus.”

FASEB President Steven L. Teitelbaum has appointed a search committee that will be chaired by FASEB President-Elect Robert Wells to seek a successor to Dr. Golub (*see ad on page 4*). **FN**

The Scientist Features FASEB's IDP

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“Nevertheless, the changing nature and stringency of today’s job market has made the mentor’s task more difficult.”

In the Sept. 30 issue, Philip S. Clifford, a member of FASEB’s SPC Training and Career subcommittee, outlined the steps involved in creating an IDP. First, postdocs should conduct a self-assessment, and mentors should familiarize themselves with the opportunities available in the students’ field. Second, the postdoc and mentor are to discuss the opportunities available. In the third step, the postdoc and the mentor write the IDP, a document that is meant to evolve over time. In the final step, the plan is revised as needed and reviewed regularly. The final installment in the series, written by Heather I. Rieff, the senior science policy analyst in FASEB’s Office of Public Affairs, will appear in the Oct. 14 issue of *The Scientist*. In it, she will offer ways to maximize the effectiveness of the final document.

While IDPs have been incorporated into performance review processes in many organizations, they have been used much less frequently in the mentoring of postdoctoral fellows. However, according to FASEB, an IDP can be considered one component of a broader mentoring program that needs to be instituted by all types of research institutions. The FASEB IDP can be found online at <http://www.faseb.org/opar/ppp/educ/-idp.html>. The articles in *The Scientist* are on the Web at <http://www.the-scientist.com>. **FN**



Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology

Executive Director

Quick Leonard Kieffer is currently recruiting for a new Executive Director for the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB).

Located in Bethesda, Md., FASEB is a coalition of 21 independent Member Societies representing the interests of biomedical and life scientists. The purposes of the Federation are to bring together investigators in biological and medical sciences represented by the Member Societies; to disseminate information on the results of biological research through publications and scientific meetings; and to serve in other capacities in which the Member Societies can function more efficiently as a group than as individual units.

The Executive Director reports directly to the President/Board and is the chief administrative officer of the corporation, responsible for implementing financial, publications, advisory, public relations, educational, and other programs and policies approved by the Board. He/she provides leadership and direction to approximately 110 professional, technical and clerical support staff and manages an annual operating budget of \$14.9 million.

Qualified applicants should have executive/administrative experience with a record of achievement and leadership in academic, association or other non-profit organizations. The ideal candidate will be a distinguished clinician/researcher with proven administrative and leadership capabilities, excellent interpersonal skills, knowledge and understanding of the legislative process, knowledge of current trends/issues facing the biological and life sciences, and a strong sense of diplomacy. An advanced degree (M.D., Ph.D.) is highly desirable.

For additional information, please contact:

Robert Kuramoto, M.D., or Zack Reynolds
of Quick Leonard Kieffer by phone: 312-876-9800
or email: rkuramoto@qlksearch.com, zreynolds@qlksearch.com

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HHS Addresses FASEB's Concerns in Final Privacy Rules

The final regulations governing the privacy of medical records, issued Aug. 14 by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), included several important modifications supported by FASEB and its advocacy partners. FASEB has followed this issue from the initial publication of the rules in 2000 and has commented on provisions of the rule that could have had a negative impact on the conduct of research. HHS addressed many of FASEB's concerns and the changes are reflected in the final rule.

When HHS first issued the privacy regulations, on Dec. 28, 2000, there was a lot of confusion and many complaints from the research community. On July 6, 2001, HHS issued a guidance to clarify some of the rule's provisions and promised to make some changes to redress any unintended effects of the rule. On Aug. 14, 2001, FASEB joined the Association of American Medical Colleges and several other organizations in a letter urging HHS to amend its proposed regulations: "We write to voice our shared concern that the Department's final rule, 'Standards for Privacy of Individually Identifiable Health Information,' unless substantially amended, will harm patients and scientific innovation by creating significant obstacles to the conduct of biomedical, epidemiologic, health services, and other research."

On March 27, HHS issued proposed modifications to the rule, and on April 25, FASEB again commented, reiterating its objections to certain provisions. The final Rule makes several modifications that address FASEB's concerns:

- ◆ **Multiple forms.** The March proposed modifications considered our previous suggestion that researchers should be allowed to use one authorization form for all purposes, which could be combined with the consent form for participation in research. The final rule leaves it to the discretion of the researcher or the IRB to determine whether combining authorization and consent forms for research would be appropriate for a particular study. This simplifies the process of obtaining authorization, lessens confusion and eliminates redundant paperwork.
- ◆ **Waiver provision.** The December 2000 rule set forth conditions under which covered entities could use and disclose protected health information (PHI) for research purposes without first obtaining an individual authorization. These conditions were confusing and sometimes internally inconsistent and could not be relied upon without risking substantial civil and criminal penalties associated with violations of the rule. HHS eliminated certain criteria and better described the standards that an IRB should consider when evaluating whether the use or disclosure of PHI involves no more than a minimal risk to privacy.
- ◆ **De-Identification.** The December 2000 rule permitted a covered entity to de-identify PHI so that the information could be used and disclosed freely, without being subject to the rule. The standard for de-identification was so stringent so as to render data useless for much epidemiological, health services and other population-based research. The final rule includes an alternative that would delineate a set of "direct"

identifiers that would be removed to create a modified de-identification standard for medical research purposes, an approach that FASEB strongly supports.

- ◆ **Termination date.** A core element in the December 2000 rule required that the authorization contain a termination date. FASEB was concerned about the implications of this requirement on data stored in a repository or database maintained for research. The March proposed modifications allowed that an authorization could be made without a termination date or terminating event if the disclosed PHI was to be deposited in a repository or database maintained for research purposes. The final Rule is even kinder to researchers. It eliminates the requirement for an expiration date for all uses and disclosures of PHI for research purposes. DHHS expanded this modification in acknowledgement of the frequently blurry line between research repositories and databases in particular, and research data collection in general. However, if the authorization for research uses and disclosures does not have an expiration date, it must state that fact clearly on the authorization form.
- ◆ **Revocation.** HHS also clarified that although patients are permitted to revoke their authorization at any time during a research project, covered entities may continue to use and disclose protected health information obtained prior to the revocation where it is necessary to maintain the integrity of the research study.
- ◆ **Re-disclosure.** The December 2000 rule stated that an authorization is not valid unless it contains certain notifications and core elements. FASEB was concerned with one required notification that would oblige the party holding the PHI to state the potential for redisclosure of the PHI by a recipient. FASEB felt that this requirement called for an estimation of the risks of disclosure by a recipient who is typically beyond the control of the party authorized to disclose the information. The final Rule clarifies that the notification of the potential for redisclosure does not require an analysis of the risk for disclosure, but rather a statement that the health information may no longer be protected by the rule once it is disclosed by the covered entity.

Under the rules, institutions can use medical records without a patient's consent only if an IRB determines that a study could not otherwise be conducted. The regulations require that IRBs compare the value of the research against the risk of infringing on a patient's privacy, a task the review boards had never been asked to perform. FASEB and its advocacy partners had asked HHS to exempt IRBs from the regulations.

While FASEB is disappointed that IRB protected research was not exempted in the final Rule, its leaders are pleased that HHS made significant modifications to many of the rule's provisions that relate to research. The rule is now much more workable for the research community. The compliance date of the privacy rule for most covered entities is April 14, 2003. We will keep you advised if further modifications are made to the rule, which is available online at <http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/hipaa/>. FN

FASEB President Talks With Government Officials About NSF Funding, Bioterrorism

On Sept. 5, FASEB President Steven L. Teitelbaum met with National Science Foundation (NSF) Director Rita Colwell to talk about funding for the NSF and its programs in the biological sciences and other fields. Dr. Teitelbaum assured Dr. Colwell that FASEB will write to the chairman and ranking member of the House of Representatives Appropriations subcommittee on the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development urging strong support for the NSF programs, including those in the BIO Directorate.

On the same day, Dr. Teitelbaum met with John Marburger, President Bush's Science Advisor, to discuss the scientific response to the threat of bioterrorism. Topics included the Administration's concerns about the protection of sensitive homeland security information and the relationship of the National Institutes of Health to the proposed Department of Homeland Security. Dr. Teitelbaum expressed reservations about the bioterrorism research language in S. 2452, a bill introduced by Sen. Joseph I. Lieberman (D-Conn.) that would establish a Department of National Homeland Security (*see next item for FASEB's concerns*). Mr. Marburger asked him to suggest more workable alternatives.

FASEB Expresses Concerns About Lieberman Homeland Defense Bill

In a Sept. 3 letter to key Senators, FASEB President Steven L. Teitelbaum laid out his concerns about S. 2452, the National Homeland Security and Combating Terrorism Act. A provision in the bill, which was introduced by Sen. Joseph I. Lieberman and approved by the Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs on July 25, would transfer control over the budget and direction of research programs within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to the new department.

Having the new Homeland Security Department set bioterrorism research priorities would be counterproductive, Dr. Teitelbaum wrote. He argued that the ultimate authority in setting bioterrorism research priorities and in the oversight of this research should remain within HHS and NIH and not be transferred to the Department of Homeland Security; a broad-based research strategy, rather than a 'top-down' approach will ultimately lead to the most important breakthroughs in fighting bioterrorism; the scientific expertise for planning and implementing an appropriate bioterror research strategy already exists at NIH; and HHS and NIH should act in consultation with the new department in setting and carrying out the bioterror research agenda. "HHS/NIH, and the dozens of universities and research institutions around the country where NIH-supported research is performed, already have the scientific expertise and research infrastructure in place to carry out the bioterrorism research that our nation needs," the letter states. The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease (NIAID) has historically led the way in research on a wide range of infectious diseases, and we are convinced that hypothesis-driven basic research, rather than a 'top-down' approach, has historically led to the most important advances in biomedical science." The letter can be found online at <http://www.faseb.org/opar/bioterrorism/nr9x3x2.pdf>.

New York Times Publishes Teitelbaum Letter-to-the-Editor

The July 29 edition of *The New York Times* included a letter from FASEB President Steven L. Teitelbaum in response to "Debate Over Whether to Defend Animal Tests," an article that ran in the July 23 edition of the paper about veterinarian Michael Podell and his government-backed research.

In an attempt to discover why drug abusers seem to succumb more quickly to AIDS, Dr. Podell infected cats with the feline AIDS virus, gave them methamphetamines and compared the course of the illness with a group of un-infected cats. The studies made him and Ohio State a target of animal rights activists, who picketed the university, spray-painted the university president's house and glued the locks on the administration building doors. Dr. Podell received nearly a dozen death threats. Dr. Podell decided to end his academic career, leaving behind a tenured job and unfinished research that was supported by a \$1.7 million grant from the National Institutes of Health.

In his letter responding to the article, Dr. Teitelbaum expressed dismay at the turn of events, writing that he was alarmed at the persecution of researchers. "Understanding how drug abuse may affect the onset and progress of AIDS ... could contribute to the health of millions," he wrote. "The use of animals in research is carefully regulated by research institutions and the federal government and is critical to the understanding of diseases that affect humans and animals alike."

ASHG Exec. Testifies on Behalf of FASEB Before President's Council on Bioethics

On July 12, Joann A. Boughman, the executive vice president of the American Society for Human Genetics, a FASEB Society, testified before the President's Council on Bioethics about its recently released report, "Human Cloning and Human Dignity: An Ethical Inquiry." Dr. Boughman testified that FASEB agreed with several of the Council's conclusions, including the fact that cloning-to-produce-children is unsafe, morally unacceptable, and ought to be prohibited; and research using cloning techniques such as the use of somatic cell nuclear transfer *could* lead to important knowledge about human development may result in treatments for many human diseases.

However, Dr. Boughman stated, FASEB disagrees with the report's assertion that cloning-for-biomedical-research can never be ethically pursued and subsequent recommendation to impose a moratorium on such activities.

"We readily acknowledge that there remain many unanswered questions regarding the success of the proposed therapies resulting from these techniques," Dr. Boughman stated. "It is precisely because the scientific community is dedicated to seeking answers to biomedical questions that we argue that research on all types of stem cells must continue to determine which sources of stem cells hold significant promise for treating human disease. From the scientific perspective, halting this research process (through a moratorium or an outright ban) precludes advancing to successful implementation of therapies." Dr. Boughman's prepared remarks can be found online at <http://www.faseb.org/opar/news/docs/bioethstest.pdf>. **FN**

New FASEB Board Members

This summer, 10 new members were appointed to the FASEB Board of Directors. Several of them have been fairly active in FASEB public policy activities. Roger A. Sunde serves on the FASEB Science Policy Committee (SPC) and has participated in several federal funding conferences; Jane E. Aubin served on the SPC; and Antonio Scarpa served on the FASEB finance committee. Stephen I. Goodman has been elected treasurer of the board. The new members are:



Avrum I. Gotlieb, M.D.
University of Toronto
American Society Investigative Pathology



Jane E. Aubin, Ph.D.
University of Toronto
The American Society for Bone and Mineral Research



Roger A. Sunde, Ph.D.
University of Missouri
American Society for Nutritional Sciences



Kathryn B. Horwitz, Ph.D.
University of Colorado School of Medicine
The Endocrine Society



Stephen M. Hedrick, Ph.D.
University of California-San Diego
The American Association of Immunologists



Peter H. Mathers, Ph.D.
West Virginia University
Society for Developmental Biology



Antonio Scarpa, M.D., Ph.D.
Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine
Biophysical Society



Stephen Goodman, M.D.
Colorado University Health Sciences Center
The American Society of Human Genetics



Michael F. Summers, Ph.D.
University of Maryland
The Protein Society



James B. Mitchell, Ph.D.
National Institutes of Health
Radiation Research Society

FASEB Society Members Among Those Honored by Lasker

Four FASEB Society members are among the five honored recently by the



Rothman

Albert and Mary Lasker Foundation. The 2002 Lasker Award for Basic Medical Research will be shared by **James E. Rothman** of the Sloan-Kettering Institute and **Randy W. Schekman** of the University of

California-Berkeley for the discovery of the universal molecular machinery that orchestrates the budding and fusion of membrane vesicles. Dr. Rothman and Dr. Schekman are both members of the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (ASBMB).



Schekman



Kolff

The 2002 Lasker Award for Clinical Medical Research will be presented to **Willem J. Kolff** of the University of Utah School of Medicine and Belding H. Scribner of the University of Washington School

of Medicine for the development of renal hemodialysis. Dr. Kolff is a member of The American Physiological Society.

The 2002 Lasker Award for Special Achievement in Medical Science will honor **James E. c, Jr.** of The Rockefeller University for leading break-throughs in our understanding of gene regulation and for fostering the careers of more than 125 young scientists. Dr. Darnell is a member of ASBMB. **FN**



Darnell

FASEB Members Bring Expertise, Influence to Minority Institutions

Durisala Desaiiah visited Savannah State University in 1999 and 2001 through FASEB's Visiting Science Program for Minority Institutions. Each visit lasted only a week, but according to Chellu S. Chetty, a professor of biology at Savannah State, the impact of Dr. Desaiiah's stay has endured.



Durisala Desaiiah

Dr. Chetty says that during his time there, Dr. Desaiiah:

- Increased the awareness of biomedical research in healthcare system and of opportunities for minority students in graduate and medical programs;
- Provided one-on-one mentoring to undergraduate students and peer-review advice to faculty members preparing research proposals;
- Provided hands-on experience for postdoctoral fellow and undergraduate students in advanced research techniques;
- Delivered class room lectures and faculty seminars in topics closely related research being conducted at Savannah State University; and
- Offered guidance in the preparation of posters and manuscripts for presentation and publication respectively.

"Long after his departure, as a result of his continuing association with Savannah State, students and faculty were able to present two posters, one at the 9th Internal Congress of Toxicology, Brisbane, Australia on July 8-12, 2001, and another at the International Society of Neuroscience-Rio Satellite Meeting, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in August 2001," Dr. Chetty said. "And, we were able to present another paper at the ASBMB/ASPET joint meeting in Boston, Mass., in 2000."



Chellu S. Chetty

This is one of the many success stories to come out of Visiting Scientists program, FASEB's 21-year effort to arrange for visits by members of the Federation's constituent societies to minority institutions. The program, funded by the Minority Access to Research Careers (MARC) Programs through the National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS), provides opportunities for education and research at minority colleges and universities by interaction with distinguished investigators in the biomedical sciences.

As did Dr. Desaiiah, a member of the American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics, the visiting scientists can provide guidance on curricula, advise students on career choices, discuss opportunities for biomedical research, and convey the excitement that can be derived from a career in the life sciences. "We've presented papers at FASEB society meetings, attended FASEB sponsored summer research conferences and attended grant writing seminars," said Dr. Chetty, who serves as a member of the FASEB/MARC Advisory Board. Dr. Chetty was able to develop successful grant

applications and received close to \$2 million from NIGMS, allowing him to start a research laboratory and hire a postdoctoral fellow and a few undergraduate students. One of these students was Johnny Johnson, who benefited greatly from the visiting scientists program and other MARC activities.

"Many undergraduate students at minority institutions usually lack exposure in research," Dr. Chetty said. "This program is highly beneficial to the undergraduate institutions like Savannah State University. It provides students an opportunity to interact with the scientists and faculty from research-intensive institutions. The visiting scientists also provide the information about the summer internships available at their institutions. If the visiting scientist has served on NIH/NSF review panels, as in the case of Dr. Desaiiah, he/she can provide ideas and suggestions for the preparation of effective grant proposals by the faculty at the host institutions."

The FASEB/MARC program sponsored Dr. Chetty and Mr. Johnson to attend the Boston meeting, where Mr. Johnson presented a paper that was published in 2001 in the *International Journal of Toxicology* and received the 2001 American College of Toxicology President's Award for the best paper published in *International Journal of Toxicology*. Johnny parlayed these accolades into a summer research position at the State University of New York at Stony Brook (SUNY) in summer of 2001 and eventually gained admission to the graduate school there with a five-year scholarship and tuition waiver. He said that he owes much of his success to Dr. Desaiiah's visit.



Johnny Johnson

Dr. Desaiiah said such testimony is the main reason he began participating in the program years ago. Through it, he's developed relationships with scientists at many Historically Black Colleges and Universities, including Jackson State University, Selma University in Alabama, Alcorn State University in Mississippi and Tougaloo College.

In spite of the benefits to be gained from participating in the Visiting Scientists program, FASEB has seen a drastic decline in the number of FASEB scientists applying to the program. In 1996, 18 FASEB scientists applied to the program, and 17 awards were made. For 2002, only 2 scientists applied to the program with two awards made.

Jacquelyn Roberts, the associate director of the program, said the program is not well utilized. Dr. Chetty agreed: "The program and its objectives need to be known so that they can communicate with their colleagues who can provide the much-needed technical help to the minority institutions," he said.

FASEB accepts applications for the Visiting Scientists program year-round. For more information on participating in the program, contact the FASEB MARC Program at (301) 634-7020, or e-mail at marc@faseb.org or go online to <http://career.faseb.org/marc>. FN

APS Completes the First Stage of Its Legacy Project

The American Physiological Society (APS) has archived and published online journal content from 1987 to 1996. Articles from several journals, including the *Journal of Neurophysiology*, the *Journal of Applied Physiology* and many of the *American Journals of Physiology*, are now accessible. Active APS members can get the data for free; there is a one-time fee for non-members.

The APS began posting the content of its journals online in 1996. Though recent materials were available electronically, there was still nearly 100 years of scientific research stored only in printed editions on the library's bookshelves. In order to make the information more easily accessible, APS began its Legacy Project. Journal articles from thousands of printed volumes will be scanned into a searchable online collection of content published in all 14 APS journals prior to 1996 going back to the very first edition of the *American Journal of Physiology*, published in 1898. The Legacy Project is expected to take approximately three years to complete.

For more information on the Legacy project, go to <http://www.the-aps.org/news/legacy%5Fproject.htm> or contact Margaret Reich, APS director of publications, at mreich@the-aps.org.

Do Impact Factors Accurately Convey Journal Excellence?

The scientific community relies on impact factors for a ranking of which journals are the most read and cited publications. These numbers weigh heavily in deciding where new research will be submitted. But in an editorial published in the August edition of *The Physiologist*, APS Executive Director Martin Frank wrote that this is not necessarily an accurate representation of the caliber of the publication.

In the editorial, Mr. Frank argues that impact factor measurements are not statistically sound and are easily skewed by heavily cited articles, yet many accept these numbers as the absolute measure of merit of the whole journal. He also discusses the growing trend in graduate schools to require researchers to submit articles to journals with impact factors at or above a certain number and the similar practice of some European institutions allocate funds to research laboratories based on the impact factors of their published articles. To view the full discussion of this issue, go to <http://www.the-aps.org/publications/journals/tphys/2002html/Aug02/opinion.htm>

Biophysical Society Selects President-Elect

Stephen Harvey, a professor of biochemistry and molecular genetics at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, has been elected president-elect of the Biophysical Society. Dr. Harvey

will become the Georgia Research Alliance Eminent Scholar in Structural Biology at the Georgia Institute of Technology's School of Biology on Jan. 1, 2003. Ruth Altschuld, a professor at Ohio State University Medical Center was elected secretary, and Mordecai Blaustein of the University of Maryland School of Medicine was elected treasurer. Seven society members were also elected to Council: Stephen Baylor, Christopher Berger, Clara Franzini-Armstrong, Sharona Gordon, Elizabeth Komives, Eduardo Rios, and Frederick Sachs.

AAA's Schoenwolf Named Editor-in-Chief Of Developmental Dynamics

FASEB Board Member Gary C. Schoenwolf, a former president of the American Association of Anatomists (AAA) and director of the University of Utah's Children's Health



Research Center, has been named editor-in-chief of *Developmental Dynamics*, one of AAA's two flagship journals. Dr. Schoenwolf, also a professor in the Department of Neurobiology and Anatomy, begins this new role on Jan. 1, 2003, when *Developmental Dynamics* Editor-in-Chief Paul Goetinck steps down after 10 years in that position.

According to AAA President John F. Fallon, each of the top developmental biology journals will change editor-in-chief during the next 12 months. "As one of the first to make this change, AAA and *Developmental Dynamics* are extremely fortunate that Gary Schoenwolf has accepted this position," he

said. "As a recognized leader in the field, he has the scientific status, plus the energy and creativity to build on the solid foundation provided by Paul Goetinck. I'm confident that Gary will succeed in taking the journal to the next level of excellence."

Developmental Dynamics targets developmental biologists who study the emergence of form during animal development. The journal is an international forum for the exchange of novel and significant information gained from analytical and theoretical investigations on the mechanisms that control morphogenesis. Dr. Schoenwolf said he envisages that *Developmental Dynamics* will be "the venue for in-depth reviews in developmental biology."

Deadline for Nominations for the ASBMR John Haddad Young Investigator Awards is Near

Each year, the American Society for Bone and Mineral Research (ASBMR) presents eight young investigator awards to individuals to attend the AIMM-ASBMR John Haddad Young Investigator's Meeting. The next meeting will be held April 7-12, 2003, in Snowmass, Colo. The nomination deadline for next year's ASBMR John Haddad Young Investigator Awards is Oct. 23, 2002. For more information about the awards, including eligibility requirements or to obtain a nomination form, visit the ASBMR Web site at <http://www.asbmr.org/Pages/younginv.htm>.

Outreach to Teach: The Mentor Network

More than 700 human geneticists have volunteered to be a part of a unique resource for students and teachers throughout Canada and the United States. In partnership with the National Human Genome Research Institute, members of the American



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