

FASEB News

"Quality Life Through Research"

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FASEB Proposes Increases in Life Sciences Research Budget at NIH, NSF and Other Agencies

In the spirit of completing the five-year doubling of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) budget, the delegates to FASEB's annual Federal Funding Consensus Conference have recommended a \$27.3-billion appropriation for the agency in fiscal year 2003. "With this funding, NIH will be able to provide increased support for investigator-initiated basic, translational and patient-oriented research; support interdisciplinary collaborations to translate genomic discoveries into clinical applications; and maintain the wellspring of fundamental new discoveries provided by basic research," said FASEB President Robert R. Rich, at a Jan. 30 press conference to release the report. "These resources are needed to attract outstanding biomedical scientists into research careers; provide training in patient-oriented and translational research; and improve salary and establish fringe benefits for NRSA-funded trainees."



FASEB's officers Steven L. Teitelbaum and Robert R. Rich with NSF Director Rita Colwell at the Funding Conference.

In addition, he said, "this investment will provide funds for the development of critical new technologies, multi-technology centers and shared instrumentation; support facilities improvement through a combination of grants and loan guarantees; expand support for bioinformatics; establish a stem cell line repository; and increase NIH's RM&S budget to enhance oversight and management of the research portfolio."

The conference report, *Federal Funding for Biomedical and Related Life Sciences Research, FY 2003*, also included recommendations for six other major federal sponsors of life-sciences research: National Science Foundation (NSF), U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). FASEB's recommendations for the other agencies include:

- ◆ An increase of at least 15 percent for a total of \$5.5 billion for the National Science Foundation to return to the commitment to double the NSF budget;
- ◆ An increase of at least \$95 million for USDA's National Research Initiative Competitive Grants Program;
- ◆ An increase of \$80 million for NASA's Office of Biological and Physical Research;
- ◆ An increase of \$435 million for DOE's Office of Science;
- ◆ A \$33.5-million increase for the VA's biomedical research programs; and
- ◆ An increase of \$72 million over the proposed FY 2002 budget for the EPA's Office of Research and Development.

"This nation has created a robust research enterprise and has enjoyed the fruits of this investment," Dr Rich said. "These increases will ensure our progress in vital fields of research. Our efforts to improve the quality of human life can and must continue. We

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Research!America Honors FASEB

FASEB has been named the "Organization that has Distinguished Itself by its Advocacy," for 2002 by Research!America. The award, which recognizes individuals and organizations that exemplify the leadership required to assure that a strong national medical and health research enterprise will flourish, will be presented at the Sixth Annual Research!America Advocacy Awards Dinner, to be held at the National Academy of Sciences on March 19.

"We are honored to be recognized for our advocacy efforts on behalf of the National Institutes of Health and other agencies that support biomedical and life sciences research," said FASEB President Robert R. Rich.

The Research!America Advocacy Awards Program was established in 1996. Previous winners include the Society for Women's Health Research and the Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research Funding.

Research!America is a leading nonpartisan voice for making medical and health research a higher national priority. Its membership represents more than 375 academic institutions, independent research laboratories, teaching hospitals, private industries, professional societies, voluntary health agencies and philanthropies. **FN**

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FASEB News

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USDA Must Safeguard Researchers from Security Risks of FOIA Disclosures

By Alice Ra'anan, Public Affairs Officer
The American Physiological Society

There is growing concern about security risks to research personnel and projects caused by information that the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is releasing under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). Since late last year, APHIS has also made animal facility inspection reports available electronically under a new program known as "E-FOIA."

FOIA was enacted in 1966 and provides the legal framework to enforce "the people's right to know." FOIA gives the public the right to obtain government records unless the information falls under one of nine specific exemptions or three law enforcement exceptions.⁽¹⁾ Due to numerous FOIA suits over the years, government agencies have developed guidance about what must be disclosed under FOIA and what can be withheld.



Alice Ra'anan

The Animal Welfare Act (AWA) requires the USDA to conduct an annual, unannounced inspection of every facility that does research with regulated species. These inspections are conducted by the APHIS Animal Care unit, which is responsible for AWA enforcement. Since Oct. 1, 2001, APHIS has been posting animal facility inspection reports to its website in a searchable database. This is part of a government-wide expansion of FOIA mandated under the 1996 Electronic Freedom of Information Act (E-FOIA) Amendments.

E-FOIA requires government agencies to establish electronic reading rooms for agency reports and items frequently requested under FOIA. Animal facility reports fall into the latter category because animal activists often request them when assembling information about a research facility.⁽²⁾ The APHIS E-FOIA implementation plan calls for inspection reports to be posted online after 21 days. Research facilities are concerned about this information falling into the hands of animal rights activists because some of these reports contain identifying information about research projects or personnel. Other reports list as "violations" of the AWA minor infractions that were corrected on the spot or disputed issues that may reflect differences of professional judgment between the facility's veterinary staff and the USDA inspector.

The annual APHIS inspection consists of a walk-through of the animal facility and a review of animal protocols and the minutes of the institutional animal care and use committee (IACUC) meetings. The inspector writes a report noting any apparent violations of AWA animal care, program oversight, or protocol review requirements. This report is presented to an institutional representative during an exit interview.

There are several contentious issues in the way that violations are handled on inspection reports that raise security concerns due to APHIS FOIA policies. The first issue has to do with minor violations that are corrected on the spot. In such cases, APHIS procedures still require the inspector to write it up as an AWA violation with a notation that the violation was corrected. The second issue concerns alleged violations disputed by the facility. In some cases there is a dispute because the institutional veterinarian disagrees with the APHIS inspector about the appropriateness of research technique, pain relief, or animal husbandry. In other cases, there is a difference of interpretation about protocol review or other Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee responsibilities. If questions about the disputed finding can be resolved during the exit interview, the violation is not reported. However, if the disagreement cannot be resolved, the disputed finding is written up as a violation, and the facility must appeal it to APHIS. The inclusion of minor violations that have been corrected and disputed issues inappropriately identifies institutions as being in violation of the AWA.

The third issue has to do with the inclusion of identifying information. Some APHIS inspectors record the numbers and species of animals at the facility on the day of inspection. Others provide information about where the animals are kept or the kind of research being conducted. In reporting violations, some give information that could be used to identify research and veterinary care personnel.

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For example, one inspector wrote the following in a report currently posted on the APHIS E-FOIA website: "I observed noncompliance with veterinary care requirements during inspection of rabbits used on study #[protocol number], "[Name of study]. I learned that the research staff for this project had not used appropriate methods for injection of rabbits with antigen and CFA mixture, resulting in abscessation at injection sites."

Including such information on inspection reports is a problem because of APHIS FOIA release policies. First, APHIS releases inspection reports in their entirety, and will not delete any information. This policy is based upon the USDA's interpretation of the FOIA exemption categories plus decisions handed down in previous FOIA litigation. The release policy is so broad that before the advent of E-FOIA, reports were released directly from the APHIS Animal Care regional offices, eliminating the need even to file a formal FOIA request. Secondly, a report can't be withheld unless there is a proven connection between the release of an earlier report and a facility break-in.

The rapid dissemination of facility reports under E-FOIA has merely exacerbated the existing dangers. In a recent meeting with research organizations, Acting Deputy APHIS Administrator W. Ronald DeHaven acknowledged the legitimate security concerns of research facilities. He attributed the inclusion of inappropriate identifying information to the fact that inspectors must provide sufficient detail so that an enforcement action can be brought against non-compliant facilities. DeHaven suggested that representatives of institutions ask the APHIS inspector in the exit interview to remove such information from the report. He noted that inspectors have been given some training on security concerns, but he indicated that further training might be helpful.

On Oct. 12, 2001, Attorney General John Ashcroft issued a FOIA memorandum to all government agencies.⁽³⁾ Ashcroft noted the importance of balancing the need for compliance with FOIA with the protection of other "values and interests." Those counterbalancing values and interests include "safeguarding our national security, enhancing the effectiveness of our law enforcement agencies, protecting sensitive business information and, not least, preserving personal privacy."

Given the Attorney General's guidance and the heightened sensitivities of a post-September 11 world, many in the research community believe that it is time for the USDA to revisit its FOIA release policies for facility inspection reports. Past animal activist actions provide ample justification for researchers' concerns that the information provided under FOIA may threaten their safety, that of their research animals, and that of research facilities, equipment and the research data itself.

In a report on terrorist activities in the United States, the FBI identified the Animal Liberation Front (ALF) and its allies in the Earth Liberation Front (ELF) as responsible for eight incidents in 1999 ranging in severity from vandalism to firebombing and arson.⁽⁴⁾ These activities continue unabated. Although the FBI has not yet released a comparable report for the years 2000 or 2001, the ALF has offered its own scorecard. On January 12, 2002, the North American ALF Press Office issued a report cataloguing various "direct actions" (that is,

illegal attacks) perpetrated in 2001 by ALF, ELF, and like-minded individuals. According to the North American ALF, in 2001 eight animal research facilities and nine research-related websites were attacked in the name of "animal liberation."⁽⁵⁾

Although it is impossible to know how ALF sympathizers select their targets, these individuals do use the Internet. It is counterproductive to law enforcement efforts to provide individuals who use violence to promote their cause with ready access to information about potential targets.

A further problem with APHIS FOIA policies has to do with the fact that reports cannot be amended even if they contain inappropriate identifying information or cite violations that were later withdrawn. This is because such reports are considered to be "agency records," which makes them subject to the FOIA requirements. Identifying information poses an obvious risk, but the inclusion of violations that were later withdrawn poses another. Such reports are for all intents and purposes official documents. For those inclined to use any means necessary to substantiate a jaundiced view of animal research, such reports could be used as "evidence" that a facility had violated the AWA. This can create the impression that a facility has done something wrong when it has not.

USDA should take immediate steps to revise its policies with respect to FOIA release of animal facility inspection reports. The most important step that the USDA can take is to reclassify initial inspection reports as pre-decisional documents, which in fact they are. APHIS already waits 21 days before posting reports to the web. By classifying initial reports as pre-decisional, these draft documents will not be subject to FOIA. The 21-day period can be used to resolve disputed issues and screen for inappropriate identifying information before the report becomes an agency record. The USDA should also:

- ◆ Adopt a clear policy statement that identifying information does not belong in inspection reports.
- ◆ Provide inspectors additional training about the security concerns of research facilities.
- ◆ Delineate what kinds of information pose a risk to personnel and facilities.
- ◆ Give APHIS inspectors guidance on how to create a valid inspection report without including identifying information.
- ◆ Put into place guidelines for redacting information before reports are released under FOIA. Categories of unacceptable information include: names of researchers and veterinary staff; protocols names; room numbers or other information that makes it possible to determine where animals are housed or research is conducted; and animal inventories or lists of species.

References

- (1) Freedom of Information Act Guide. May 2000. Department of Justice Website.
- (2) See websites for the Animal Protection Institute, Animal Emancipation, In Defense of Animals, and Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine.
- (3) Memorandum for Heads of All Federal Departments and Agencies from John Ashcroft, Attorney General regarding The Freedom of Information Act. October 12, 2001. Department of Justice Website.
- (4) *Terrorism in the United States 1999: 30 Years of Terrorism. A Special Retrospective Edition*. Counterterrorism Threat Assessment and Warning Unit, Federal Bureau of Investigation. <http://www.fbi.gov/publications/terror/terror99.pdf>
- (5) *2001 Year-End Direct Action Report*. North American Animal Liberation Front Press Office. Jan. 12, 2002. www.tao.ca/~naalfpo/2001_Direct_Action_Report.pdf **FN**

Federal Funding for Biomedical and Related Life Sciences Research, FY 2003

Executive Summary

Our investment in scientific research has contributed substantially to our health and quality of life. We have made tremendous progress in the battle against disease and now enjoy longer, healthier lives. With the power of the new discoveries in genetics, we stand on the threshold of even more profound understanding of basic biological processes which will, in turn, dramatically enhance our abilities to prevent, treat and cure disease. The past year has also seen the rise of new threats to our security. Protection against bioterrorism has become a major national priority. Due to our previous investments in research, the scientific community was able to immediately contribute to the nation's response to this new threat. Much more remains to be done, and we stand ready to do our part. Scientific research must be an essential component in our plans to meet the challenges of the 21st century.

In this report, the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB), on behalf of its 21 member societies representing more than 60,000 scientists, offers its view of immediate research opportunities for scientific and medical advancement and provides fiscal year 2003 funding recommendations for the biomedical and life sciences portfolios of seven federal agencies.

National Institutes of Health (NIH)

- FASEB recommends an appropriation of \$27.3 billion for NIH in FY 2003. This will achieve the goal of doubling the NIH budget within five years.

National Science Foundation (NSF)

- FASEB supports a major increase in the average size and duration of NSF grants.
- FASEB supports funding more of the most meritorious yet currently unfunded proposals.
- FASEB advocates a return to the commitment to double the NSF budget and recommends that the NSF budget for FY 2003 be increased by at least 15 percent, to \$5.5 billion.

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)

- FASEB supports increasing funding for the National Research Initiative Competitive Grants Program to at least \$200 million. This amount would be a significant step toward bringing the program closer to its authorized level of \$500 million.
- FASEB recommends that funding for the National Needs Fellowship Grants be increased to \$5 million and the Higher Education Challenge Grants increased to \$6 million.
- FASEB supports development of mechanisms that would enable the Initiative for Future Agriculture and Food Systems to become a stable source of research funds.

Department of Energy (DOE)

- FASEB recommends a budget of \$3.67 million for DOE's Office of Science in FY 2003 for work that addresses important national needs in basic energy sciences and to augment important core programs, enhance utilization of major research facilities, develop the next generation of scientific tools and strengthen research and education at U.S. universities.
- FASEB supports the establishment of the position of Under Secretary of Science and Energy Research.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)

- FASEB recommends that NASA's Office of Biological and Physical Research (OBPR) give the highest priority to expanding its investigator-initiated, peer-reviewed research program. This effort should include an increase in the number of meritorious proposals funded, the addition of a second annual review cycle, expansion of the ground-based research program to support the OBPR flight program and to prepare for utilization of the International Space Station and expansion of outreach activities to enlist, train and retain outstanding investigators.
- FASEB recommends an annual increase of \$100 million for OBPR's biological research programs to be used to enhance investigator-initiated, peer-reviewed life sciences research opportunities.

Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)

- FASEB recommends that \$404 million be appropriated in FY 2003 for VA biomedical research, \$33.5 million (a nine-percent increase) over FY 2002. This should be the beginning of a sustained, multi-year investment.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

- FASEB encourages the EPA's Office of Research and Development to attract and retain talented scientists through an expanded pre-doctoral, post-doctoral and faculty exchange program.
- FASEB urges Congress to provide new funds for projects that it directs the EPA to perform.
- FASEB recommends that funding for the Science to Achieve Results (STAR) program be increased by \$25 million.
- FASEB recommends that funding for the EPA's Office of Research and Development budget be increased to \$664 million for FY 2003.

To view the full report, see <http://www.faseb.org/opar/fund2002/fedfund02.pdf>. **FN**

FASEB Fights Legislation That Would Ban the Use of Nuclear Transplantation in Research

Legislation that would ban human cloning will be on Congress' agenda this spring. But many of the bills that have been introduced would also prohibit the use of nuclear transplantation, also known as somatic cell nuclear transfer (SCNT) – where the genetic material of an egg cell is removed and replaced with the nucleus of a specialized cell. Scientists believe that nuclear transplantation can result in stem cells that may be used for therapeutic purposes.

To ensure that research on such a promising field is allowed to continue unfettered, FASEB – through independent efforts and in conjunction with a newly formed cloning coalition known as The Alliance for Therapeutic Research – has been fighting legislation that would ban the use of nuclear transplantation in research. “We view human reproductive cloning as an unethical and irresponsible act in that it poses considerable safety concerns from a scientific and medical perspective,” said FASEB President Robert R. Rich. “There should be severe penalties for anyone who attempts to do this.” But, he added, “We want to make sure that the bill that is eventually passed, while including stiff penalties for those who would clone human beings, will not stymie the efforts of researchers searching for cures using nuclear transplantation.”

Last summer, the House of Representatives approved a bill to ban human reproductive cloning as well as the use of nuclear transplantation for scientific research or therapeutic purposes. The Senate is scheduled to vote this spring on cloning legislation. Of the several bills that have been introduced in the Senate, FASEB has endorsed S.1758, the Human Cloning Prohibition Act, which bans reproductive cloning but allows the use of nuclear transplantation for therapeutic and scientific purposes.

Dr. Rich sent a letter to Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.) and the bill's other co-sponsors, expressing FASEB's support of the legislation. “We applaud the authors of S.1758 for their carefully worded bill, which has the potential to expedite the development of therapies for millions of Americans,” Dr. Rich wrote in the Dec. 11 letter, which can be found online at <http://www.faseb.org/opa/ppp/ltr12x11x1.html>.

Nuclear transplantation “has the potential to produce large numbers of cells which can then differentiate into many different cell types, such as neurons to treat Alzheimer's or Parkinson's disease, pancreatic islet cells to treat diabetes or cardiomyocytes to repair the damaged heart,” Dr. Rich wrote. “These techniques may also make it possible to create cells that have the same genetic makeup as an individual; this would offer patients a source of transplanted cells that would not be subject to immune rejection.”

A coalition of more than 20 research organizations led by FASEB signed a letter, found online at http://www.faseb.org/opa/ppp/ltr_1x24x02.html, endorsing S.1758. “We share the concerns of the Congress and the American people about human reproductive cloning, where the goal is implantation, gestation and subsequent birth of a cloned human being,” according to the letter, sent to Sen. Feinstein and the other co-sponsors of the bill. “However, any legislative ban on human cloning must not prohibit therapeutic cloning.”

In the midst of this letter-writing campaign, the National Academies released a report, *Scientific and Medical Aspects of Human Reproductive Cloning* (see <http://www.nap.edu/books/0309076374/html/> for more details). In a letter praising the analysis, Dr. Rich wrote, “On the basis of their thorough review of the scientific evidence, the authors of this report have produced an authoritative statement on human cloning. Irving Weissman, the panel chair, and his colleagues should be commended for an excellent job of reviewing the studies of animal cloning and analyzing their implications for human beings.”

The report concludes that reproductive cloning poses significant dangers to the woman, fetus and newborn and as a result should be prohibited. In summarizing the scientific and medical issues involved, the National Academies' report clearly distinguishes human reproductive cloning – where the objective is to create a child – from the use of nuclear transplantation to create stem cells. “By making a clear and cogent distinction between these two activities, the National Academies' report makes an excellent contribution to public education and provides a sound basis for future policy discussions,” Dr. Rich said. FASEB supports the report's recommendation that stem cell research using nuclear transplantation be permitted.

In the coming weeks, as the Senate debates the merits of the various anti-cloning bills, FASEB will continue to be actively involved. For up-to-date information on FASEB's activities in this area, check the Web site of the Office of Public Affairs at <http://www.faseb.org/opa>. **FN**

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have some critical new priorities. We believe, however, that our current security and our future prosperity are dependent on continued investment in science.”

Thirty-eight scientists representing FASEB's 21 member societies, along with several members of the Federation's Board of Directors, gathered at the FASEB Campus in Bethesda, Md., Dec. 3-5, 2001, to write the funding recommendations. Officials from several government agencies talked about scientific accomplishments and opportunities.

The conference delegates then met in smaller groups to review the federal programs in detail and write recommendations for consideration by the full conference. Rita Colwell, the director of the NSF, was the keynote speaker for the dinner meeting, and Acting NIH Director Ruth Kirschstein spoke at the opening session of the conference.

The report will be widely distributed to members of Congress, officials in the administration and research advocacy groups and will also serve as the basis for FASEB's advocacy efforts for research funding for the coming year. The executive summary can be found on page 4, and the full report can be found online at <http://www.faseb.org/opar/fund2003/fedfund03.pdf>.

FN

FASEB Gets Green Light for New Headquarters Building

FASEB has been given the go ahead by county zoning officials and the FASEB Board of Directors for a building expansion project that will include a new, five-story, 50,000-square-foot office building and a four-story parking structure on the Federation's campus in Bethesda, Md. The project is expected to cost \$11 million. Upon completion of the new building, FASEB will then begin renovation of the Lee Building, the current main office building, which should be finished by the end of 2004.

Construction is scheduled to begin in June 2002. The parking deck is expected to be completed by October 2002, and the new building is expected to be ready for occupation by the

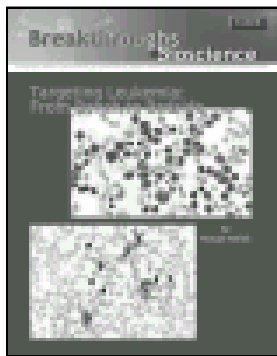
late summer of 2003. It will be the national headquarters for several of the FASEB member societies who reside on the Bethesda campus and will house some FASEB functions.

Low interest tax-free bonds issued by the State of Maryland will finance the new building project. This debt will be accommodated by the rental income from the new space. "This project will allow the continued growth of our member societies and will greatly improve the services and quality of the space we provide," said FASEB Executive Director Sidney H. Golub. "We have a beautiful campus that is conveniently located. This addition will improve its functionality while adding to the attractiveness of the site." **FN**

FASEB Publishes Breakthroughs Article on Leukemia

In the 1960's, children's leukemia wards were filled with children, some as young as two years old, who were not expected to live more than a few months. Four decades later, nearly 80 percent of all children with leukemia survive the disease — twice the survival rate in 1970. Impressive survival gains have also been made for adults with this type of cancer. Surprisingly, many of the important strides made in the diagnosis and treatment of leukemia did not hinge on the efforts of cancer researchers who specifically aimed to conquer the disease, but rather by a diverse bunch of scientists from the fields of pathology, hematology, chemistry, and genetics.

By pursuing answers to basic questions, these researchers collectively homed in on the molecular defects that underlie leukemia and ways to counter those flaws. Their trials and successes are described in "Targeting Leukemia: From Bench to Bedside," the latest article to be published in the *Breakthroughs in Bioscience* series. The *Breakthroughs* series is a collection of illustrated articles that explain recent developments in basic biomedical research and how they are important to society.



"Thanks to the efforts of scientists from a diverse array of fields, including laboratory researchers as well as clinicians, leukemia has gone from being a mysterious disease, to being a group of well-defined disorders," said Margie Patlak, who wrote the article. "By zooming in from the gross abnormalities of these leukemias to leukemia cells' molecular fatal flaws, these researchers, from the bench to the bedside, are gathering information that is blossoming into cures for many afflicted with these cancers."

A summary of this article will appear in the March 2002 issue of the FASEB Journal and will appear in full in the Journal's online counterpart FJ Express (www.fasebj.org/express/). Copies can also be obtained by writing to the FASEB Office of Public Affairs, 9650 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, Md. 20814-3998 or by calling 301-571-0657. Past articles in the series are available online at www.faseb.org/opar/break/. **FN**

FASEB President to Host Bioterrorism Symposium at Experimental Biology 2002

On April 21, as part of the Experimental Biology 2002 meeting, FASEB President Robert R. Rich will host a symposium titled, "On Bioterrorism: New Threats Facing the Nation, New Challenges for the Scientific Community." Scheduled speakers include Anthony S. Fauci, Director, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, National Institutes of Health; Tara O'Toole, Director of the Johns Hopkins University Center for Civilian Biodefense Strategies; and Julie Louise Gerberding, Acting Director of the National Center for Infectious Diseases, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The symposium, to be held from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. in rooms 252/254 of the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center in New Orleans, will focus on new challenges for the scientific community in responding to bioterrorism. The preparedness of the public health system and the effectiveness of health care professionals are heavily dependent on the knowledge, expertise, and technological and medical advances developed within the scientific community. Just as importantly, however, the scientific community needs to play a role in defining new regulations to ensure public safety—including helping to

determine ways to maintain the openness of scientific research and knowledge sharing while addressing the needs of the public. Finding an appropriate balance is one of the many challenges facing scientists at this critical juncture in our nation's history. The speakers will discuss the science policy implications of bioterrorism from the government, public health, and scientific perspectives. **FN**

Allegations of Misconduct Refuted

An article recently published in the American Journal of Human Genetics (AJHG) presents a thorough and authoritative rebuttal of the widely publicized charges leveled against geneticist James V. Neel by journalist Patrick Tierney. Tierney accused Neel and others of ethical misconduct in the research they conducted among the Yanomami people of the Venezuelan Amazon. In their AJHG article, Arno Motulsky et al. review the original research materials and present a detailed refutation of the charges, concluding "these allegations to be gross misrepresentations and basically false." **FN**

What We've Been Doing

FASEB Officers Meet with Key Science Policy Players on Both Ends of Pennsylvania Avenue

On January 30, FASEB President Robert R. Rich and Steven L. Teitelbaum spent the day meeting with key congressional and White House personnel on issues of critical importance to the research community. With staff of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, Dr. Rich discussed proposed legislation to ban closing and the committee's plans regarding legislation to strengthen protections of human research subjects. Drs. Rich and Teitelbaum had similar conversations with staff members for Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif). Specifically, they spoke about the Senator's legislation – which FASEB has endorsed – to prohibit human reproductive cloning while allowing research using somatic cell nuclear transfer to continue. In a meeting with officials from the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, Dr. Rich discussed research funding and regulatory burden issues.

FASEB President Urges OMB Official To Stop Rulemaking Process That Would Amend Definition of "Animal"

As a consequence of settlement of litigation brought by an organization of “animal activists,” the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is re-commencing a rulemaking process to consider amending the definition of “animal” covered by regulations of the Animal Welfare Act (AWA). This amendment would remove the current exclusion of rats and mice bred for use in research and birds. In a Jan. 8 letter to John D. Graham, Administrator for the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs in the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), FASEB President Robert R. Rich reasserted FASEB's position that such a change would severely curtail vital biomedical research by adding layers of regulations to a field already heavily regulated without producing a commensurate benefit for human or animal welfare.

“Aside from the moral imperative to treat animals humanely, researchers have a powerful reason to provide high quality care for animals,” Dr. Rich wrote. “Such care is key to the integrity of the scientific results produced by the research. However, FASEB maintains that such care is currently being provided with appropriate oversight and we strongly object to removing the current exclusion of rats and mice bred for use in research and birds, under the AWA regulations.”

Dr. Rich urged Dr. Graham to “stop this misguided and unwarranted effort by some in your Administration to appease those who would cripple medical research. As President of FASEB, I am requesting that the OMB undertake a comprehensive analysis of the implications of expanding the AWA's coverage to rats, mice and birds.”

Two FASEB Society Members Named to President's Council on Bioethics

Two FASEB Society Members – Daniel W. Foster and Janet D. Rowley – were among the 17 members of the newly created President's Council on Bioethics, a group that will advise the president on matters at the intersection of medicine and morality.

Dr. Foster, a member of ASBMB and ASCI, is the chairman of Department of Internal Medicine at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School. His research in intermediary metabolism has garnered him many honors, including the Banting Medal, the Joslin Medal, the Tinsley R. Harrison Medal and the Robert H. Williams Distinguished Chair of Medicine Award. Foster is a member of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences and is a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Dr. Rowley, a member of the American Society for Human Genetics, is a professor of Medicine, Molecular Genetics and Cell Biology, and Human Genetics, at the University of Chicago's Pritzker School of Medicine. She is internationally renowned for her studies of chromosome abnormalities in human leukemia and lymphoma.

In his executive order, the president said the council will address the “human and moral significance” of advancements in biomedical science and technology, explore ethical and policy questions related to certain developments – such as embryo and stem cell research – and make recommendations. The bioethics presidential council will be in existence for only two years unless the president extends its mission. A list of the remaining members can be found online at <http://www.whitehouse.gov>.

Ethics Advisory Group Elects Former FASEB President to its Board

Former FASEB President Mary J.C. Hendrix, Ph.D., has been elected to a three-year term on the Board of Directors of PRIM&R (Public Responsibility in Medicine and Research), a national nonprofit organization dedicated to educating the medical and legal professions, industry, and the public about the ethical, legal, and policy dimensions of appropriate and ethical research.

Since its founding in 1974, PRIM&R has been committed to the advancement of strong research programs and to the consistent application of ethical precepts in both medicine and research. Through national conferences and published reports, it has addressed a broad range of issues in biomedical and behavioral research, clinical practice, ethics, and the law.

Topics addressed include: the ethical and procedural issues surrounding the operation of Institutional Review Boards (IRBs) and Institutional Animal Care and Use Committees (IACUCs); educating for the responsible conduct of research; the range of problems affecting AIDS research and treatment; reproductive and other technologies and their effects on patient care; healthcare ethics committees; scientific integrity and conflicts of interest; and the general range of questions surrounding academic/industrial relations. More information on PRIM&R is available at <http://www.primr.org>.

FASEB Journal Publishes Editorial on Bioterrorism

The January issue of the FASEB Journal features an editorial written by Betty Sue Masters, FASEB's Vice President for Science Policy, and Heather Rieff, Senior Science Policy Analyst in the Office of Public Affairs. The article, “**Science and the Fight Against Bioterrorism**,” discusses the scientific community's role in protecting the nation against threats of bioterrorism and suggests future directions.

“The scientific community—from academic researchers studying the basic principles of viral entry and antibiotic action to the pharmaceutical sector where vaccine production and development is being increased—has already contrib-

uted significantly to the nation's capacity to respond to terrorism," according to the editorial. For instance, scientists are using genetic techniques to analyze sequence variations in the bacterial DNA and regions of the bacterial genome containing sequence repeats in order to determine the genetic fingerprint of the bacteria. This allows identification of the bacterial strain; once a strain is identified, it may be possible to identify its original source. The article can be found online at <http://www.fasebj.org/cgi/content/full/16/1/1>.

Major Midwest Daily Publishes Cloning Essay by FASEB President-Elect

The St. Louis Post-Dispatch, a major newspaper with a daily circulation of more than 300,000, published an editorial by FASEB President-Elect Steven L. Teitelbaum titled, "Therapeutic Cloning is Designed to Help People, not Create New Ones." In the Post-Dispatch's Dec. 3, 2001 essay, Dr. Teitelbaum clarifies the differences between reproductive human cloning and other related technologies – often referred to as therapeutic cloning – that have enormous potential to treat human diseases and repair damaged tissues or organs.

Teitelbaum uses this venue to educate the non-scientific community on FASEB's position on this issue and cites the dangers inherent to legislation that would prohibit the practice of therapeutic cloning in efforts to block the creation of a cloned human being. He states, FASEB "is strongly opposed to reproductive human cloning, but supports the use of therapeutic cloning techniques to produce molecules and cells for research and therapeutic use. We fear that hastily crafted legislation will prevent these important therapeutic uses of cloning technology and block essential biomedical research." FN

Society News

ASBMB Members Respond to ASBMB President's Call for Support in War on Bioterrorism

Nearly 200 members of the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (ASBMB) responded to ASBMB President Robert Wells' November 7 e-mail concerning member expertise in bioterrorism. The responses were collated by the ASBMB staff and shared with the Council during its meeting in Houston, Texas in mid-November. Dr. Wells said, "I am most gratified by this overwhelming outpouring of member concern and their obvious desire to help our country. I thank all the members who responded." The Council is currently assessing how best to make use of the member response.

ASPET Hosts Meetings on Alzheimer's Disease and Alternative Medicine During EB 2002

During the Experimental Biology 2002 meeting, the American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics' Ray Fuller Symposium will cover the neurobiology and neuropharmacology of Alzheimer's disease and treatment strategies. Sessions during this symposium will include Clinical, Neurochemical and Neuropathological Alterations in Alzheimer's Disease; Amyloid and Amyloid Therapeutics; Tau and Alzheimer's Disease; Neuroimaging and Alzheimer's Disease; and Neurotransmitter Therapy Interventions. The registration deadline for the ASPET-Ray Fuller Symposium is March 15. The Ray-Fuller Symposium will be held Friday, April 19, from 8:15 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and continue on Saturday, April 20, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. A separate pre-registration is required. For more information, contact Margie Arkin, ASPET Meetings Assistant, at 301-214-8831, or by e-mail, markin@aspet.org.

ASPET's Public Affairs Workshop, "Incorporating Complementary and Integrative Medicine into Basic Science Teaching: Why and Why Now?" will address the educational initiatives underway in several medical schools to incorporate elements of Complementary and Alternative Medicine (CAM) into the

medical curriculum. The presentations will focus on innovative approaches to integrate CAM into various basic science courses at three different institutions. In addition, there will be a discussion of specific strategies for integrating the teaching of herbal medicine, botanicals and 'nutraceuticals' into medical pharmacology courses. No registration is required for this workshop, which is scheduled for Sunday, April 21, from 12 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

AAA Continues Global Reach of Outreach Grants Program

The outreach grants of the American Association of Anatomists (AAA) has reached high school students in Pennsylvania, secondary school science teachers in Michigan, Indian anatomists learning how to teach anatomy, and young investigators worldwide. AAA's Outreach Grant Program provides funding for workshops and symposia, either as stand-alone activities or under the umbrella of other national or international societies. Support for plenary speakers at such meetings is also available. Targeted audiences include researchers, educators, and students at all levels. Proposals are evaluated on the basis of visibility and impact, quality of participants, and value to the Association. The next application deadline is August 1, with awards distributed in January 2003. For full details and an award application, go to "Awards" on AAA's AnatomyLink (www.anatomy.org).

ASBMR Prepares for 24th Annual Meeting

The 24th meeting of The American Society for Bone and Mineral Research (ASBMR) will be held Sept. 20-24, 2002 at the Henry B. Gonzales Convention Center in San Antonio, Texas. The abstract receipt deadline is April 3, 2002. The pre-registration deadline is July 25, 2002. For the latest information go online to <http://www.asbmr.org>.

May 1, 2002 is the deadline for nominations for ASBMR's major awards: Louis V. Avioli Founders Award, William F. Neuman Award, Fuller Albright Award, Frederic C. Bartter Award, Shirley Hohl Service Award, and the ASBMR Mentorship Awards. The nomination guidelines are outlined at <http://www.asbmr.org>. The ASBMR Awardees

will be announced and honored at the association's annual meeting.

Endocrine Society to Host 84th Annual Meeting

ENDO 2002, The Endocrine Society's 84th annual meeting, will be held June 19-22, 2002 in San Francisco, Calif. Thousands of researchers, clinicians, clinical investigators, fellows, post docs and other professionals from around the world are expected to attend to hear about advancements in the field of endocrinology. Highlights of meeting include: focus on "The Impact of the Human Genome on Endocrinology" with a series of plenary lectures, symposia, Meet-the-Professor sessions, poster presentations and special events; "Experience the Future: Discover the Power of Genetics," an interactive educational simulation of genetic counseling and its impact on clinical practice and patient care; and a special pre-meeting educational event "Building a Clinical Trials Program: A Management and Professional Conference." To register for ENDO 2002 go online to <http://www.endo-society.org>.

Jeffrey E. Pessin Named Editor-in-Chief of *Endocrinology*

Jeffrey E. Pessin, University of Iowa Foundation Distinguished Professor of Endocrinology in the Department of Physiology and Biophysics at the University of Iowa College of Medicine, has been named the Editor-in-Chief of *Endocrinology* from 2003-2007. The Society's publications committee said Dr. Pessin brings a wealth of experience to the journal, having previously served as Editor of *The American Journal of Physiology - Endocrinology/Metabolism* from 1994 to 2000.

EMS 2002 — Frontiers Beyond the Human Genome

The 33rd Annual Meeting of the Environmental Mutagen Society will be held from April 27 to May 2 at the Hilton Hotel in Anchorage, Alaska. The program spans the interests of the Environmental Mutagen Society, starting with toxicology and DNA damage and concluding with proteomics and nanotechnology, and will begin with a student reception, and

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highlighted by a series of Symposia, as well as short presentations from selected abstracts. There will also be four keynote addresses by: Bruce Ames, the developer of the Ames Assay; Mary-Claire King, whose work established the detailed molecular genetics of inherited human breast cancer; Manfred Eigen, a Nobel Prize Winner, who has formulated the concept of viral quasi-species and error thresholds; and Leroy Hood, whose pioneering work dramatically changed the fields of DNA and protein sequencing. For more information about the meeting, an up-to-date program and registration information check the EMS Web site at <http://www.ems-us.org>. **FN**

Experimental Biology 2002 Features Session on Animal Care and Use Panels

The American Physiological Society Animal Care and Experimentation (ACE) Committee will present a symposium at the Experimental Biology 2002 meeting in New Orleans concerning the workings of Institutional Animal Care and Use Committees (IACUCs). This program will provide an overview of the IACUC process for review of animal research protocols. It is intended to be useful both for research scientists and IACUC members. The symposium, entitled "Everything You Ever Wanted to Know about the IACUC But Were Afraid to Ask," will be held on Saturday, April 20, from 1 to 5 p.m. in Room 213 of the Morial Convention Center in New Orleans. ACE Committee Chairman John Stallone will chair the session.

Speakers will include Molly Greene of the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, who will discuss IACUC function and responsibilities; Dr. Stallone, who will discuss protocol review, and J.R. Haywood, also of UTHSCSA, will give a presentation entitled "Troubleshooting: Where Do We Go From Here?" Following each speaker's presentation will be an opportunity to pose questions to representatives of the National Institutes of Health's Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW), the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal Care unit, and the Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care (AAALAC), International. OLAW, USDA, and AAALAC are the major organizations responsible for oversight and accreditation of animal research facilities.

This program is co-sponsored by the American Physiological Society, NIH's Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare, the American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics, American Society for Nutritional Sciences, American Association of Immunologists, American Association of Anatomists, and Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology.

To register for the session, contact Alice Ra'anan at araan@the-aps.org to register. Resource materials will be provided. Further information is available on-line at http://www.the-aps.org/meetings/eb2002/abs/pa_stallone.htm. **FN**

New Web Site Offers Full Text to 302 Leading Journals

HighWire Press launched a new portal into the realm of scientific publishing. Named *the HighWire Library of the Sciences and Medicine*, this comprehensive web tool – which first appeared in January 2002 – affords access to the full text of 302 leading journals, including 44 of the 100 most-frequently cited scientific publications in the world. It also includes all of Medline, with links to full-text articles, for the broadest coverage of biomedical science research anywhere.

Created with the support of and advice from several FASEB Member Societies, the portal provides barrier-free access to content, cross-journal searching, and personalized email alerts. The site is an entrée to the world's largest and fastest growing archive of full-text life science research—383,333 free articles (with some 3,000 being added every month) from 118 journals and pay-per-view options to another 148 journals. Everyone can read any abstract for free, and readers in developing countries can read the full-text of selected journals, many of which are publications produced by FASEB Societies, without being charged.

Users can search across all journals, in selected journals, within topics, and by citations. Results are easily sorted and filtered. Personalized alerting features automatically send users electronic tables of contents, publisher announcements, notification of citation references as new articles are published and subscription expiration warnings from a single sign-in point. HighWire Press will add features based on the needs and responses from scientists, librarians, and publishers. For more information, or to submit feedback, go online to <http://highwire.stanford.edu>. **FN**