

# FASEB News

Volume 35, Number 3

A Bimonthly Publication of the FASEB Office of Public Affairs

June 2002

## FASEB's Board of Directors Gather for Face-to-Face Meeting

At its May 6 and 7<sup>th</sup> meeting, the FASEB Board of Directors considered a number of issues, including legislation on therapeutic cloning and a FASEB statement opposing genetic discrimination. In addition, the Board approved a proposed Individual Development Plan to improve mentoring in postdoctoral training.

The May Board Meeting also served as an opportunity to honor two outstanding individuals who have devoted their professional lives to the National Institutes of Health – Acting NIH Director Ruth Kirschstein and Alan Rabson, Deputy Director of the National Cancer Institute. Each was given a special award for their unwavering commitment to the pursuit of biomedical research. In addition, the garden in front of the Beamont House on FASEB's campus was named after Dr. Kirschstein, with a plaque that reads, "The Ruth Kirschstein, MD Garden - In honor of her contribution to medical research." **FN**

## FASEB Holds Symposium on Training and New Investigators

The May Board meeting began with a symposium, *Training and New Investigators: What Are The Issues, Where Are The Facts*. Paul Kincade, a member of FASEB's Board and Science Policy Committee (SPC), organized and chaired the symposium. He also gave an overview presentation including data on trends in graduate education, postdoctoral training, and employment. Other speakers included Howard Garrison and Heather Rieff of FASEB's Office of Public Affairs, who summarized NIH funding trends and presented an analysis of new investigators and the NIH system. Mike Finn of Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education spoke on the issue of foreign students and scientists in U.S. biomedical research, while Joyce Raveling of the University of Washington compared the quality of the students who enter the biological sciences to those in other science fields.

*See Symposium on Training, page 2*



FASEB President Robert R. Rich (l) and Executive Director Sidney H. Golub (r) receive Research!America's Advocacy Award from Former Representative Paul Rogers.



Board Policy Symposium on training issues (left to right): FASEB President Robert R. Rich, FASEB Vice President Bettie Sue Masters, Training Committee Chair Paul Kincade, OPA Senior Science Policy Analyst Heather Rieff, Economist Michael Finn, and University of Washington Policy Analyst Joyce Raveling.

## ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS

- |        |                                               |         |                                  |
|--------|-----------------------------------------------|---------|----------------------------------|
| Page 2 | FASEB Society Members Honored by Bush         | Page 6  | NAS Elects FASEB Society Members |
| Page 3 | FASEB Urges Genetic Nondiscrimination Bill    | Page 7  | What We've Been Doing            |
| Page 3 | Washington Update: Cloning                    | Page 9  | Bioterrorism Symposium           |
| Page 4 | Two Editorials Supporting Therapeutic Cloning | Page 10 | FASEB Comments on Privacy Regs   |
| Page 4 | Just-In-Time Review                           | Page 11 | Society News                     |
| Page 5 | Campus Renovation Update                      |         |                                  |

# FASEB News

Robert R. Rich, M.D., President  
Sidney H. Golub, Ph.D., Executive Director  
Howard H. Garrison, Public Affairs Director  
Bonnie Litch, Editor, *FASEB News*

## **Public Affairs Executive Committee**

Chairman, Robert R. Rich, M.D.  
*The American Association of Immunologists*

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*The American Physiological Society*

Bettie Sue Masters, Ph.D.  
*American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology*

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Gary C. Schoenwolf, Ph.D.  
*American Association of Anatomists*

George D. Rose, Ph.D.  
*The Protein Society*

Steven L. Teitelbaum, M.D.  
*The American Society for Bone and Mineral Research*

Barbara E. Bierer, M.D.  
*American Society for Clinical Investigation*

P. Michael Conn, Ph.D.  
*The Endocrine Society*

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*The American Society of Human Genetics*

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*American Peptide Society*

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*Association of Biomolecular Resource Facilities*

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*Society for the Study of Reproduction*

John DeSesso, Ph.D.  
*Teratology Society*

Susan Wallace, Ph.D.  
*Radiation Research Society*

James C. Rose, Ph.D.  
*Society for Gynecologic Investigation*

Peter J. Stambrook, Ph.D.  
*Environmental Mutagen Society*

Mary J. C. Hendrix, Ph.D., (AAA)  
*(Immediate Past President)*

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## **Four Members of FASEB Societies Honored by President Bush**

President Bush announced the recipients of the 2001 National Medals of Science and National Medals of Technology – the nation’s highest science and technology honors – on May 9th.

Among the 19 individuals named, four are members of FASEB Societies.

### National Medals of Science Recipients

**Harold Varmus**, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center [ASBMB]  
**Victor McKusick**, Johns Hopkins School of Medicine [ASCI, ASHG]  
**Mario Capecchi**, Univ. of Utah School of Medicine [ASBMB, ASCI, SDB, ASHG]

### National Medal of Technology Recipient

**Sidney Pestka**, Univ. of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey [ASBMB]

*FASEB offers its congratulations to all 2001 recipients  
of these prestigious awards.*

### *Symposium on Training, from page 1*

The final part of the symposium was devoted to a discussion of policy proposals for postdoctoral training – including the Individual Development Plan that was presented by SPC member Julian Preston.

Individual Development Plans (IDP) provide a planning process that identifies both professional development needs and career objectives. Furthermore, IDP’s serve as a communication tool between individuals and their mentors. While IDP’s have been incorporated into performance review processes in many organizations, they have been used much less frequently in the mentoring of postdoctoral fellows. An IDP can be considered one component of a broader mentoring program that needs to be instituted by all types of research institutions.

An IDP helps an individual identify long-term career options they wish to pursue and the necessary tools to meet these, as well as short-term needs for improving current performance. The development, implementation, and revision of the IDP require a series of steps, shown in the boxes below, to be conducted by the postdoctoral fellow and their mentor. **FN**

### **BASIC STEPS:**

	<b>... for Postdoctoral Fellows</b>	<b>... for Mentors</b>
<b>Step 1</b>	Conduct a “Self Assessment”	Become familiar with available opportunities
<b>Step 2</b>	Survey opportunities with mentor	Discuss Opportunities with postdoc
<b>Step 3</b>	Write an IDP Share IDP with mentor and revise	Review IDP and help revise
<b>Step 4</b>	Implement the plan Revise the IDP as needed	Establish regular review of progress Help revise the IDP as needed

## FASEB Urges Senate To Pass Genetic Nondiscrimination Bill

The FASEB Board of Directors approved a letter from President Robert R. Rich urging the Senate to pass legislation this year to assure all Americans a basic level of protection from genetic discrimination by employers and insurers. In the May 8<sup>th</sup> letter, Rich stated “[w]e must not allow differences between alternative approaches to thwart our common goal of protecting Americans from discrimination on the basis of genetic information.” He continued, “[f]ears of discrimination are widespread and threaten life-saving science by discouraging individuals from participating in clinical research.”

In this correspondence – sent to Senators Ted Kennedy (D-MA), Tom Daschle (D-SD), Trent Lott (R-MS), and members of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions – Rich stated that “[t]he mapping of the human genome has unveiled a vast, new wealth of information. This data will one day reveal every person’s genetic

predisposition to a variety of differing diseases. It can be used as an important tool to prevent and treat disease. It can also be misused as a weapon to discriminate against individuals.”

He noted that there might be a “chilling effect on biomedical research” due to the absence of enhanced protections against genetic discrimination and the resulting loss of scientific knowledge. “FASEB believes that a growing number of Americans will be discouraged from participating in vital research for fear of employment and health insurance-related consequences associated with the release of their genetic information to their employers or health insurance providers,” explained Rich, who added that “biomedical advances are dependent on the willingness of individuals to participate in clinical research.” Current law, according to Rich, does not provide sufficient protection against job loss, health insurance cancellation, or denial of coverage as a result of genetic discrimination. The full text of the letter can be found at <http://www.faseb.org/opar/news/docs/genetic.html>. **FN**

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## Washington Update: FASEB Activities on Cloning Issue

### FASEB Opposes Reproductive Human Cloning, But Urges Senate Not to Criminalize Biomedical Research

On April 10<sup>th</sup>, FASEB released a statement urging the Senate to ban human reproductive cloning, but called “short-sighted” plans to criminalize all forms of cloning – including so-called “therapeutic” cloning which offers hope to millions of individuals and their families who suffer from life-threatening diseases.

Highlighting the benefits of therapeutic cloning – which would be rendered illegal under the legislation sponsored by Senator Sam Brownback (R-KS) – FASEB President Robert R. Rich stated that “[o]ur nation’s best minds should be allowed to explore the scientific and medical promise of stem cell research... The potential for treating human disease in this exciting area of regenerative medicine is enormous.” The full text of the FASEB statement can be found at <http://www.faseb.org/opar/news/docs/nr4x10x2.html>.

### FASEB Endorses Specter/Feinstein/Hatch/Kennedy Ban on Reproductive Cloning

In a May 7<sup>th</sup> letter to Senator Arlen Specter (R-PA), twenty-seven members of the FASEB Board of Directors announced their strong support for S. 2439, the Human Cloning Prohibition Act of 2002, introduced by Senators Specter, Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), Orrin Hatch (R-UT), and Edward Kennedy (D-MA). The scientists expressed their support for a ban on human reproductive cloning, but

reaffirmed their commitment to research using nuclear transplantation to produce stem cells, a procedure sometimes referred to as “therapeutic cloning.”

In the letter, the scientists discussed the benefits of nuclear transplantation research. “We believe that human embryonic stem cell research offers significant therapeutic promise for treating a host of diseases and debilitating disorders afflicting millions of Americans. While we are grateful to the President for his decision last year to allow research on a qualified number of human embryonic stem cell lines, the usefulness of these cell lines is limited by a number of factors that can be addressed through nuclear transplantation,” the letter explained. The full text of the letter is available at <http://www.faseb.org/opar/news/docs/nr5x14x2.html>.

### FASEB Leaders Educate Public on the Benefits of “Therapeutic Cloning”

In an effort to enlighten the general public on the great promise offered by therapeutic cloning, FASEB’s President Robert R. Rich and President-Elect Steven L. Teitelbaum each authored powerful editorials which were published on April 18<sup>th</sup> in the Atlanta Journal-Constitution and the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, respectively. Rich’s article, “*Therapeutic Cloning Shows Great Promise*,” delineates the procedural aspects of this technique and de-politicizes the issue by listing its many potential benefits to health and science. Teitelbaum wrote his article, *Allow Research Cloning*, in response to President Bush’s announcement of his support for a total ban on both reproductive and research human cloning. Excerpts from both editorials can be found on page four and can be viewed in their entirety on the FASEB website at [www.faseb.org](http://www.faseb.org). **FN**



## **“Therapeutic Cloning” Shows Great Promise**

By Robert R. Rich

Recent dramatic advances in medical research have improved our understanding of human health and are reducing disease, alleviating pain and extending millions of lives. Today, some of the most promising research to extend these gains is imperiled by politics...[which do] not understand or...take into account the differences between cloning to produce a human body – an idea as abhorrent to responsible scientists as to the vast majority of Americans – and the technique of nuclear transplantation to produce stem cells, which is often referred to as “therapeutic cloning.” The U.S. Senate soon will consider legislation that would lump these two extraordinarily different approaches together and thus ban some of the most vital and promising biomedical research in our times.

There is overwhelming support in the Senate and in the scientific community for a ban on human cloning for reproductive purposes. The creation of a human being by performing nuclear transplantation and then implanting that clone into a woman’s womb is morally wrong — and is opposed by all responsible scientists. But in its rush to ban human reproductive cloning, the Senate may also ban the use of nuclear transplantation to produce stem cells and all of its therapeutic and scientific promise.

The opportunities for biomedical research have never been more promising. We must not allow indiscriminate use of the term cloning to prevent us from exploring the possibility that cures for some of our most devastating diseases lie within our own cells.

## **Allow Research Cloning**

By Steven L. Teitelbaum

Last week, President George W. Bush stated his support for a total ban on both reproductive and research human cloning. Like most Americans, the scientific community agrees with the president that the reproductive cloning of human beings is morally abhorrent and medically unsafe. However, a total ban on cloning would also criminalize promising research that many believe could lead to some of the most important medical breakthroughs in the next few decades.

It is natural to approach the unfamiliar with caution. But scientific research in the United States is currently — and will continue to be — conducted under strict and appropriate regulations. Scientists typically approach their work with “care and restraint and responsibility,” principles the president cited. Cloned molecules and DNA pieces, which are fundamental to therapeutic cloning, have been utilized for years for experimental and diagnostic purposes as well as treatment. It is incorrect to argue that, unless we ban cloning of human material in general, we will start down the slippery slope to the cloning of a human being.

To the contrary, we have already employed many powerful scientific procedures with careful oversight. It is critical to understand that there are clear and appropriate ways to permit important research using cloning techniques in human cells, while attaining the essential goal of banning the cloning of human beings. Unfortunately, legislation sponsored by Sen. Sam Brownback, R-Kan., which President Bush has supported, does not find the appropriate balance.

This research will be conducted with nothing short of the highest ethical standards. Denying the hope of new therapies to the millions of Americans afflicted with devastating diseases would, in fact, be the most ethically troubling of all.

## **FASEB Supports NIH’s “Just-In-Time” Review**

In an effort to make the grant application process less burdensome to scientists and research institutions, the National Institutes of Health set forth a proposal to amend the Public Health Service (PHS) policy on the use of laboratory animals. Current PHS Policy on Humane Care and Treatment of Laboratory Animals deems grant applications incomplete until they have received approval from the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) — a stage that must occur prior to the initial NIH peer review. The new language — often referred to as “just-in-time” — would allow institutions with PHS Animal Welfare Assurances to submit verification of IACUC approval after the peer review process, but prior to the grant award.

In an April 8<sup>th</sup> letter to Anthony Demsey, the Senior Advisor for Policy in the Office of Extramural Research at NIH, FASEB President Robert R. Rich noted the Federation’s support for this proposed change, which was announced in the Federal Register on March 28<sup>th</sup>. “We commend the National

*see Just in Time, page 6*

*Campus Renovation Update:*  
**FASEB Pursues Additional Space, Better Amenities for Resident Societies**

Over the past ten years, the number of employees on FASEB's Beaumont Campus has increased approximately 33% – a byproduct of the growth in funding and activity in the biomedical community at large. While growth is good, it has strained the ability of FASEB to provide adequate office facilities.

Beginning in 2000, FASEB embarked upon a two-phase process to expand and upgrade the existing office space. The first phase is to build a new office building approximately half the size of the existing Lee Building, as well as a parking garage. Because the Beaumont Campus is zoned residential, a Special Exception from the Appeals Board of Montgomery County had to be obtained. The Appeals Board granted the Special Exception, with restrictions and conditions, in December of 2001.

Design began in earnest in early 2002. The architectural firms of Barry Dunn and Associates and Fanelli-McLean Design Studios were engaged to design the base building and the interiors. Construction is expected to begin in July of 2002. The parking deck is expected to be completed in December 2002 and the office building in September 2003.

The new office space will incorporate many features designed to enhance the routine operations for FASEB and its resident societies. Suite configuration of the space will

better serve the occupants since critical adjacencies will be easier to accommodate. Shallow raised floors and demountable walls will make reconfiguring offices a matter of hours instead of days. The shortened renovation time will bring about significant savings to the occupants, as the cost of labor in office renovation is traditionally the greatest expense.

Once the new building is completed and the societies moved, the Lee Building will be renovated. Portions of the Lee Building are more than forty years old and have never been significantly upgraded. The renovation will include improvements to the heating and air conditioning, the lighting and electrical system, and other building amenities. The interior will be reconfigured to better utilize office suites. Where possible, shallow raised floors and demountable walls will be installed here as well in order to enhance the building's versatility.



All renovations are expected to be completed by the end of 2004. After construction, the Beaumont Campus will be able to accommodate the growth of current resident societies and the introduction of new tenant societies, as well as make the facilities more comfortable and attractive for those who work there and for those who visit it. **FN**

Institutes of Health (NIH) for its efforts to streamline and improve this important area of regulatory policy.”

Rich noted that the “just-in-time” review gives the IACUCs “flexibility to focus their attention on those proposals likely to be funded...[thereby reducing] the regulatory burden on both grant applicants and IACUCs. It will also enable

IACUCs to devote more of their time and resources to funded projects, thereby improving animal welfare. The ‘just-in-time’ concept has proven beneficial in the review of human subjects protocols, and its extension to animal research is fully justified.” The full text of the letter is available at <http://www.faseb.org/par/news/docs/justintime.html>. <sup>FN</sup>

### **NAS Announces Newly Elected Members, Including 22 from FASEB Societies**

The National Academy of Sciences announced the election of 72 new members and 15 foreign associates at its 139<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting on April 30<sup>th</sup>. These individuals were recognized for their “distinguished and continuing achievements in original research.” Among the 87 new members, the following 22 are members of FASEB Societies:

**Anderson, Kathryn V.;** professor, Weill Graduate School of Medical Sciences, Cornell University, and member, Molecular Biology Program, Sloan-Kettering Institute, New York City [SDB]

**Bustamante, Carlos J.;** investigator, Howard Hughes Medical Institute, and professor of molecular and cell biology and of physics, University of California, Berkeley [BPS]

**Cantor, Harvey;** chair, department of cancer immunology and AIDS, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, and professor of pathology, Harvard Medical School, Boston [AAI, ASCI]

**Chisari, Francis V.;** professor, department of molecular and experimental medicine, and director, General Clinical Research Center, Scripps Research Institute, La Jolla, Calif. [ASIP, AAI]

**Doudna, Jennifer A.;** associate investigator, Howard Hughes Medical Institute, and Henry Ford II Professor, department of molecular biophysics and biochemistry, Yale University, New Haven, Conn. [ASBMB]

**Esmon, Charles T.;** investigator, Howard Hughes Medical Institute; Lloyd Noble Chair in Cardiovascular Research; and Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation Professor, University of Oklahoma Health Science Center, Oklahoma City [ASBMB, Protein]

**Flavell, Richard Anthony;** investigator, Howard Hughes Medical Institute, and professor and chair, department of immunology, Yale University School of Medicine, New Haven, Conn. [AAI]

**Glimcher, Laurie H.;** professor of medicine, Harvard Medical School, and Irene Heinz Given Professor of Immunology, Harvard School of Public Health [ASBMB, AAI, ASCI]

**Goodman, Morris;** Distinguished Professor of Anatomy and Cell Biology, Wayne State University School of Medicine, Detroit [AAI, AAA, SDB]

**Goodman, Richard H.;** director and senior scientist, Vollum Institute, and vice chair of medicine, Oregon Health Sciences University, Portland [ASBMB, ASCI, ENDO]

**Ingram, Vernon Martin;** John and Dorothy Wilson Professor of Biology, Massachusetts Institute of Technology [Protein]

**Levitt, Michael;** professor of structural biology and chair, department of structural biology, Stanford University School of Medicine [Protein]

**Martin, Gail Roberta;** professor of anatomy and director, Program in Developmental Biology, University of California, San Francisco [AAA, SDB]

**Matthews, Rowena G.;** Robert Greenberg Distinguished University Professor of Biological Chemistry, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor [ASBMB]

**Siegmund, David O.;** professor of statistics, Stanford University [ASHG]

**Spear, Patricia Gail;** Guy and Anne Youmans Professor and chair, department of microbiology and immunology, Northwestern University Medical School, Chicago [AAI]

**Südhof, Thomas;** investigator, Howard Hughes Medical Institute, and Gill Distinguished Chair in Neuroscience Research, University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas [ASBMB]

**Venter, J. Craig;** chairman, The Institute for Genomic Research, Rockville, Md. [ASPET]

**Wolfenden, Richard V.;** Alumni Distinguished Professor of Biochemistry, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill [ASBMB]

**Wong, Chi-Huey;** member, Skaggs Institute for Chemical Biology, and Ernest W. Hahn Professor and Chair in Chemistry, Scripps Research Institute [ASBMB]

*Newly elected foreign associates, their affiliations at the time of election, and their country of citizenship are:*

**Gustafsson, Jan-Åke;** professor and chairman, department of medical nutrition and director, Center for Biotechnology, Huddinge University Hospital, Karolinska Institutet (Sweden) [ASBMB]

**Mak, Tak Wah;** professor of medical biophysics and of immunology and senior staff scientist, Ontario Cancer Institute, University of Toronto (Canada) [AAI]

FASEB would like to congratulate these individuals, along with the others that have been chosen for this important honor.



## What We've Been Doing

### FASEB's Rich Testifies on NIH Funding Recommendations

FASEB President Robert R. Rich testified before the House Labor, Health and Human Services, Education Appropriations Subcommittee on May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Rich thanked Subcommittee Chairman Ralph Regula (R-OH) for last year's \$23.3 billion appropriation for the National Institutes of Health, and requested that the agency be funded in FY 2003 at the \$27.3 billion level recommended at the FASEB



FASEB's Rich testifies on NIH funding.

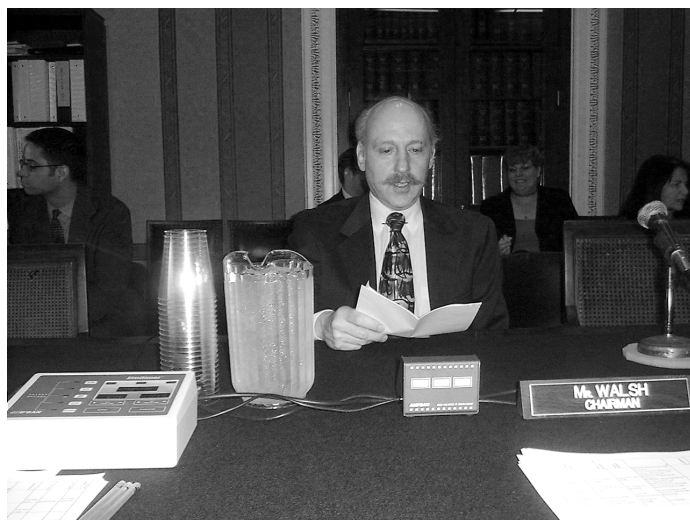
Consensus Conference. While praising the Bush Administration for its \$27.3 billion funding recommendation for NIH, Rich did express concern about Administration requests to set cancer research funding levels in law, expand the DHHS Secretary's "tap" (the power to redirect funds) from the NIH budget, and lower the salary cap on NIH grants. Rich concluded by suggesting that it is not too early to begin discussing the "post-doubling era" at NIH.

### John DeSesso Testifies on EPA before VA-HUD

John DeSesso, Senior Fellow and Director of the Biomedical Research Institute at Mitretek Systems and member of FASEB's Board of Directors, testified on the Federation's FY 2003 EPA funding recommendations before the House VA-HUD Appropriations Subcommittee. DeSesso, who served as the chairman of the FASEB Funding Conference Committee on the EPA science budget, outlined the benefits of the EPA Office of Research and Development and asked that its budget be increased to \$664 million for FY 2003.

He noted that "[ORD] plays a crucial role in developing the necessary scientific information that permits EPA to improve human and environmental health. Its responsibilities have escalated over the past two decades as the number of challenges to environmental well being has multiplied and public awareness of the importance of healthy environmental systems has intensified. Yet, since 1980, the ORD budget (adjusted for inflation) has declined by 17 percent."

DeSesso further added that "[t]o accomplish the goals



FASEB Board Member John DeSesso testifies on EPA funding levels.

set forth in its Strategic Plan, the EPA must invest in its intramural science program." He called upon ORD to "attract and retain talented scientists through an expanded pre-doctoral, post-doctoral, and faculty exchange program." Given that ORD has been challenged by unfunded Congressional mandates, DeSesso stated that Congress should provide new funds for projects that it directs the EPA to perform. He also urged appropriators to fund the Science to Achieve Results (STAR) program by an additional \$25 million – a sum above and beyond the eight-percent increase over FY 2002 requested to maintain a vigorous, high-quality research program at the EPA.

### FASEB Continues with Efforts to Advocate for 15% Increase in the NSF

The House Science Committee is seeking to increase the National Science Foundation's budget by 15%, the figure recommended by the FY2003 FASEB Consensus Conference and the Coalition for National Science Funding. In comparison, President Bush's FY2003 budget request for NSF is less than five percent.

*see What We've Been Doing, page 8*



SPC Chair Bettie Sue Masters and FASEB Board Member Robert Wells at the House Science Committee Press Conference.



FASEB's Incoming President-Elect Robert Wells with House Science Committee Chair Sherwood Boehlert (R-NY)

At a recent press conference attended by FASEB Board members Robert Wells, Bettie Sue Masters, Karen Bennett, and Al Merrill, House Science Committee Chairman Sherwood Boehlert (R-NY) announced an NSF Reauthoriza-

tion bill that calls for such an increase in the agency in FY 2003, 2004, and 2005. Boehlert and his colleagues circulated a bipartisan "Dear Colleague Letter" to VA, HUD, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee Chairman James Walsh (R-NY) and Ranking Minority Member Alan Mollohan (D-WV), urging the Subcommittee to provide a 15% increase for NSF in Fiscal 2003.

Robert Wells, FASEB's incoming President-Elect, also testified on behalf of ASBMB before the House VA-HUD Appropriations Subcommittee on April 16<sup>th</sup>. In his statement, he too expressed his support for the 15% increase for NSF, which is consistent with FASEB's position. He said, "ASBMB believes that the NSF budget should increase by at least 15 percent this year, to a total of \$5.5 billion. We support a rate of increase in the NSF budget so it can reach approximately \$8 billion by Fiscal Year 2005 – double the size it was in 2001."

FASEB President Robert R. Rich, together with the Presidents of American Chemical Society, American Physical Society, and American Mathematical Society, met with key players in the NSF funding arena in order to garner additional support for the 15% increase for the agency. The April 16<sup>th</sup> meetings included discussions with NSF Director Rita Colwell, Representative Vern Ehlers (R-MI), Representative David Price (D-NC), and House Science Committee Chair Sherwood Boehlert (R-NY). FN



## FASEB President Meets with Zerhouni and Marburger

On April 15<sup>th</sup>, FASEB President Robert R. Rich met with Elias Zerhouni at his John Hopkins University offices, prior to the latter's May 2<sup>nd</sup> confirmation as Director of the National Institutes of Health by the full Senate. Zerhouni assumed the Directorship on May 20<sup>th</sup>. The meeting between Rich and Zerhouni served as an opportunity for discussion of mutual goals and interests in the research arena. In Senate hearings, Zerhouni has indicated that one of his top priorities is to "re-establish morale and momentum, vision and energy" by recruiting new directors at several NIH institutes and centers that currently lack permanent directors.

Also on the 15<sup>th</sup>, Rich met with Dr. John Marburger, Director, White House Office of Science and Technology Policy. In that meeting, Rich discussed the following issues: the need to exempt the research community from pending medical privacy regulations; federal control of scientific information and data that might be used by terrorists; and the Administration's FY2003 Budget Request for NIH.

## FASEB President Meets with Member Societies

While attending Experimental Biology 2002, FASEB President Robert R. Rich met with the Councils of several FASEB Member Societies, including the American Association of Anatomists, the American Society for Investigative Pathology, the American Society of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics, The American Association of Immunologists, and The American Physiological Society. Accompanied by FASEB Executive Director Sidney Golub, Rich discussed plans for the new building on FASEB's campus and other FASEB activities with Society leaders.

## FASEB President Organizes Public Policy Symposium at EB 2002

Responding to deep concerns over public safety since the terrorist attacks of 9/11 and the following anthrax scare, FASEB President Robert R. Rich organized and chaired a symposium on bioterrorism at the Experimental Biology 2002 meeting in New Orleans. Participating in the April 21<sup>st</sup> session with Dr. Rich were Anthony Fauci, Director of the NIAID, and Julie Gerberding, Acting Deputy Director of the National Center for Infectious Diseases at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

In his opening remarks, Rich placed bioterrorism in the broader public policy context, reviewing some of the major issues that will affect the scientific community. Principal among these concerns was the topics of immigration, control of infectious agents, and the possible restructuring of current research agendas.

Fauci described the NIH initiatives in the area of biodefense, putting the anthrax attacks of last year in a social, historical, and scientific context. He outlined the activities of the NIH, and reviewed the strategic plans and


In addition, Rich hosted a luncheon and public policy discussion for thirteen former FASEB Presidents and Vice Presidents on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. This meeting was organized to ensure that the experience and expertise of former leaders was effectively incorporated into current FASEB activities and policy development initiatives.

## Rich Represents Scientists' Point of View at Policy Conferences


On April 22<sup>nd</sup>, FASEB President Robert R. Rich was a panelist at the American Federation for Medical Research symposium on challenges to the academic physician-scientist. Rich presented the institutional perspective and outlined ways that institutions can help alleviate the problem.

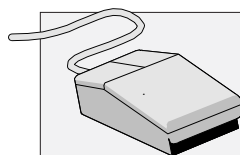
In addition, Rich served as guest speaker to the American Association of Medical Colleges Graduate Research Education and Training (GREAT) conference on multidisciplinary research held on April 28<sup>th</sup>. He spoke about the importance of clinical research and interdisciplinary collaboration.

## Rich Educates Policymakers, Scientists on Bioterrorist Threats

FASEB President Robert R. Rich participated in several activities designed to develop policies that would protect the nation against bioterrorism threats. On April 29<sup>th</sup>, he gave an informal briefing on the control of sensitive scientific information to House Science Committee staff. The Science Committee is likely to hold hearings on the need for federal controls on scientific data that might be misused by terrorists. Rich also spoke on the issue of bioterrorism at a May 13<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Committee on Science, Engineering, and Public Policy (COSEPUP). 

research agenda that NIH has created in response to the attacks. Fauci urged the audience not to view bioterrorism in a vacuum and concluded that, if correctly done, investment in bioterrorism research will result in better public health.

In her presentation, "Bioterrorism: The Future is Now," Gerberding reviewed the outbreak and progression of the anthrax epidemic of October 2001. She outlined key questions and research needs and discussed the difficult problem of balancing security and freedom. In outlining the critical investments for future preparedness and response, she also urged the audience to see the challenges as opportunities to build a broad program of research on infectious disease and rebuild the public health infrastructure. 



Where can you find up-to-date news about policy issues in Washington, the activities of the FASEB member societies, award programs, meetings and conferences, and how to reach over

60,000 scientists nationwide? Visit the FASEB website at [www.FASEB.org](http://www.FASEB.org) for all of this information, plus access to the FASEB Journal and career resources!

## FASEB Comments on Issue of Privacy of Human Subjects


In an April 25th letter to U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy G. Thompson, FASEB President Robert R. Rich commented on a proposal to modify the federal medical privacy rule printed in the March 27<sup>th</sup> Federal Register. Speaking on behalf of the 21 member societies that make up the Federation, Rich stated that “[t]he proposed changes go a long way towards correcting the unintended consequences of the privacy regulations that threatened biomedical research. However, we reiterate our strong conviction that research subject to Institutional Review Board (IRB) oversight under the Common Rule should be exempt from the privacy rule.”

According to Rich, “[t]he Common Rule and FDA regulations already instruct IRBs to determine all risks of research, including the risk of a violation of privacy. We believe that in general the privacy of medical records is well respected and protected by the IRB system.” Rich noted that it would be far more effective and cost-efficient to modify existing Common Rule and FDA regulations if privacy protections should need to be strengthened.

In his letter to Thompson, Rich expressed FASEB’s support for the use of DHHS’s alternative approach to the de-identification standard which allows the disclosure of certain limited data that has been stripped of certain “direct”

identifiers. Data could contain certain identifiers such as admission, discharge and service dates; date of death; and a 5-digit zip code. The use of this data would be further proscribed by agreement with the recipient.

Rich noted additional concern with several proposed modifications to the authorization requirements in the Rule. In particular, he objected to the requirement that the party holding the private health information (PHI) describe the potential for redisclosure by the recipient. Rich noted that this requirement “calls 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.” He urged the Department to “clarify in guidance that it would be sufficient to meet this [proposed] requirement...with a notification that researchers are only permitted to use or disclose the protected health information for purposes that have been authorized by the IRB or as required by law or regulation.” Rich suggested that the researcher should also notify the individual authorizing the use of private health information that “there is always a risk of unplanned redisclosure by the recipient.”

Finally, Rich requested that DHHS correct an oversight relating to the use or disclosure of protected health information for the purpose of facilitating anatomical donations in medical education. The full text of the letter to Thompson can be found at <http://www.faseb.org/opar/news/docs/ltr4x25x2.pdf>. 

### **WASHINGTON UPDATE: Exemption for Rats, Mice and Birds Signed Into Law**

In a formal White House ceremony held on May 13<sup>th</sup>, President Bush signed the Farm Bill into law. Included in this measure was a provision that would exempt laboratory rats, mice, and birds from coverage under the Animal Welfare Act and the USDA.

Originally included in the Farm Bill as an amendment offered by Senator Jesse Helms (R-NC), FASEB member societies had advocated for its passage into law. If this provision had not been approved, the USDA would have been forced to issue a proposed rule later this year bringing these species under the AWA, as per a September 2000 out-of-court agreement with animal activists. Scientists felt that such an action would have brought increased administrative burden upon researchers without improving the care currently provided to these animals under existing regulations. (See the April *FASEB News* at <http://www.faseb.org/opar/newsletter/4x02/HelmsAmendment.htm> for more details on this issue).

## Society News

### APS Awards Excellence in Physiology at EB 2002

Continuing its tradition of recognizing excellence in the physiological sciences, APS awarded more than \$330,000 in the form of nearly 220 awards for research and merit at the EB 2002 meeting. The Society has constructed a well-rounded awards program, administered mainly by the 12 APS sections, education office, and executive office, which reaches much of the scientific community and highlights multiple areas of physiological study. From distinguished lectureships to undergraduate travel fellowships to the Society's most prestigious award, the Walter B. Cannon Lecture, there are awards designated for scientists at all levels. The APS is proud to acknowledge and reward achievement in physiology year after year and congratulates this year's winners. For more information on the APS Awards program, go to <http://www.the-aps.org/awards.htm>.

### APS Awards More Than \$200,000 to its 2002 Postdoctoral Fellowship Winners

The American Physiological Society has announced the winners of its 2002 Postdoctoral Fellowships in Physiological Genomics. The two-year award will provide funds totaling \$73,000 to each of the three winning scientists including a stipend and a mini research grant for each year. The aim of this program is to advance the study of physiological genomics by furthering understanding of the genome in the context of the organism. This program was established to provide training that will enable outstanding young scientists to combine the tools of cellular and molecular biology in the setting of the whole animal.

The 2002 award winners are: Ana Diez-Sampedro, Ph.D. (University of California, Los Angeles School of Medicine); Malcolm A. Lyons, Ph.D. (The Jackson Laboratory); and Brian R. Wamhoff, Ph.D. (University of Virginia).

### SDB to Hold its 61<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting

The Society for Developmental Biology will be hosting its 61<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting from July 21-25, 2002 at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. For more information on program and registration, see the SDB Website at <http://sdb.bio.purdue.edu/>.

### ASBMR Sponsors Meeting on Osteoporosis Trials

To address ongoing questions about appropriate study designs for pending and future osteoporosis treatment trials, the ASBMR is sponsoring a meeting on *Osteoporosis Trials: Ethical Considerations in Study Design*, taking place June 14-15, 2002, in Bethesda, Maryland.

The ASBMR began to investigate these questions formally with a small meeting in June 2001. At that meeting,

ASBMR scientists presented background and relevant questions regarding study design to renowned ethicists. The June 2002 scientific meeting will extend the discussion, presenting the historical background; an overview of relevant research; related advisory and regulatory guidelines; industry viewpoints; ethical commentary; discussion; and a summary statement. For more information about this meeting, including registration, accommodations, and program information, please visit the ASBMR Web site at [www.asbmr.org/osteoporosisconference.htm](http://www.asbmr.org/osteoporosisconference.htm) or e-mail [asbmr@dc.sba.com](mailto:asbmr@dc.sba.com).

### ASBMR Late-Breaking Abstracts Deadline

The ASBMR is committed to providing a forum for presentation of unpublished results from the most recent and important basic and clinical studies at our annual meeting. Therefore, the ASBMR has instituted a new late-breaking-abstracts process. The ASBMR invites the submission of abstracts that report new research findings of the highest scientific impact. Abstracts on clinical, basic, and translational subjects are welcome. The merit of the abstracts must reach or surpass the level of those selected for ASBMR concurrent oral presentations.

The ASBMR Abstract Submission site will be open from Tuesday, July 9, 2002, at 10:00 a.m., Central Time, through Tuesday, July 16, 2002, at 5:00 p.m. Central Time. For complete abstracts submission instructions and guidelines, please visit the ASBMR Web site at [www.asbmr.org](http://www.asbmr.org). 