WELCOME TO:

“Advocacy in Your Backyard: How Scientists Can Make a Difference"

THE WEBINAR WILL BEGIN IN A FEW MINUTES

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Agenda for Today’s Webinar

1. Welcome
2. Update on FY 2018 Appropriations
3. How Scientists Can Take Action
4. Questions and Answers
To Ask A Question

Type your question in the white box and click "Send" (gray button)
What is FASEB?

- A federation of 31 societies
- Representing over 125,000 researchers
- Our Mission…
  - Advance health and welfare by promoting progress and education in biological and biomedical sciences through service to our member societies and collaborative advocacy.
Status of FY 2018 Appropriations

- Through June and July, House and Senate Appropriations Committees have approved spending bills.

- Final outcome of appropriations process uncertain
  - Fiscal year ends on September 30
  - A short-term spending bill (continuing resolution) will almost certainly be necessary

- Larger issues loom
  - Congress needs to reach a bipartisan agreement to lift discretionary spending caps
  - Congress must reach an agreement to raise the debt ceiling
# Proposed 2018 Funding for Research Agencies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agency</th>
<th>House Appropriations Bill (Change from FY 2017*)</th>
<th>Senate Appropriations Bill (Change from FY 2017*)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NIH</td>
<td>$35.2 billion (+$1.1 billion)</td>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSF</td>
<td>$7.34 billion (-$133 million)</td>
<td>$7.31 billion (-$161 million)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DOE SC</td>
<td>$5.39 billion (No change)</td>
<td>$5.55 billion (+$158 million)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFRI</td>
<td>$375 million (No change)</td>
<td>$375 million (No change)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VA Research</td>
<td>$691 million (+$16 million)</td>
<td>$722 million (+$49 million)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Compared to FY 2017 omnibus appropriations bill (Public Law 115-31)
Why Scientists Should Take Action

- Congress is working towards a budget for FY 2018 and needs a bipartisan deal to raise discretionary spending caps

- There is strong bipartisan support in congress for the research agencies
  - 206 House members signed a letter in March requesting a $2 billion increase for NIH in FY 2018
  - 162 House members signed a letter in March requesting a $600 million increase for NSF in FY 2018

- Many members of Congress are not aware of how federal research funding benefits their district/state

- Voters are having a greater impact on members of Congress
Advocacy Makes A Difference

- Surveys* show that:
  - 88% of congressional staff said receiving an email has “some” or “a lot” of influence on members of Congress
  - 78% of staff said social media posts from multiple constituents affiliated with a specific cause would influence a member of Congress
  - 45% of staff said as few as 30 comments about a specific issue on social media is enough to gain attention from members of Congress
  - 50% said social media makes members of Congress more accountable to constituents

Goals of Current Advocacy Efforts

- **Short-term**
  - Inform your elected officials about biological and biomedical research happening in their states and districts
  - Encourage them to support a budget deal that will allow for robust increases in scientific funding for NIH, NSF, etc.

- **Longer-term**
  - Develop working relationships with your elected officials
  - Help them to understand the broad importance of biomedical science to our nation
Take Action

- Make a phone call
- Use social media to connect with elected officials
- Attend a town hall meeting
- **Meet your representatives and senators when they are back home**
- Educate/inform the public
Meet Your Officials Locally

- Our website includes information about contacting your Senators and Representatives at their State/District Offices
- You can set up meetings with staff in a local office at any time
- Ask about public appearances (town hall meetings, office hours, etc.)

Current Congressional Recess
- Summer: **August 1st-September 4th**
Advocacy Tools Website


Key information you can use to become an advocate!
Example of Elected Official Profile

Representative Tom Cole
Republican-OK-004

Contact Information
- Capitol Address: 2467 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515
- Capitol Phone: (202) 225-6165
- Capitol Fax: (202) 225-3512
- District Address: 2424 Springer Dr Ste 201, Norman, OK 73069
- District Phone: (405) 329-6500
- District Fax: (405) 321-7369
- Website: http://cole.house.gov/
- Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/TomColeOK04
- Twitter: http://www.twitter.com/tomcoleok04
- YouTube: http://www.youtube.com/TomColeOK04

Personal Information
- Religion: Methodist
- Family: Ellen Elizabeth Decker and 1 child
- Date of Birth: 4/28/1949
- Birthplace: Shreveport, LA
- Home: Moore, OK

Background Information
- Education: Doctor of Philosophy, University of Oklahoma (1964)
- Occupation: Founding Partner and President, Cole, Hargrave, Snodgrass and Associates, Inc. (1989-2002); District Director, Office of U.S. Rep. Marvin Edwards (OK05 R) (1982-1984); Lecturer, Grinnell College London Extension Program (1977-1979); Graduate Instructor, University of Oklahoma (1975-1978); Founding Partner and President, CNS and Associates; Consultant, U.S. Chamber of Commerce Institute for Legal Reform
Request a Meeting

Recognized as the policy voice of biological and biomedical researchers.

Request a Meeting with Elected Officials

A meeting with your federal lawmakers is an effective way to advocate for biological and biomedical research. Instructions and a sample email message requesting a meeting are provided below:

- Go to the U.S. House of Representatives or Senate website and search for your elected officials using your ZIP code or zip+4.
- Look under the "Contact Us" section of the Representative's/Senator's website to obtain the address and phone number of their state/district office(s).
- Compose an email (see sample below) requesting a meeting and send it to the appropriate contact (you may have to call the office to get the name of the correct staff person) or use the form on the Senator/Representative's website.

Sample Email Requesting a Meeting

Data:
[Name of Staffer, if applicable]  
The Honorable [first name, last name]  
U.S. House of Representatives [or U.S. Senate]  
Address  
City/State/Zip

Dear Representative/Senator __________________:

I am writing to request an appointment with you and/or members of your staff on [date and time] in your [Washington, D.C. or district office]. I wish to discuss how funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and other federal science agencies supports researchers in [your state or district].

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request. Please contact me at [your email address] or [phone number] to schedule a meeting time. I apologize in advance if I am contacting the wrong person in your office and would appreciate it if you could refer me to the appropriate staff person so that I may reach out to him or her directly.

Figure left to right: Kimberly Toigo, Amir Zeiri, Scott Simon, Hud Freeze, and James Bowie prepare to meet with Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.) during FASEB’s Capital Hill Day, April 15, 2013.
Advocacy Best Practices

Representing 30 scientific societies and 125,000 researchers from around the world.

Science Policy and Advocacy > Become an Advocate > Advocacy Tool Kit > Plan a Congressional Visit

Congressional Visit and Advocacy Best Practices

Use our tips for engaging elected officials in meetings and town hall discussions.

Before the Visit

FASEB staff can assist with your congressional office meeting.

- Be prepared. What is your "ask?"
  In other words, what specifically would you like the member of Congress to do? Determine if your legislator has any relevant committee appointments (e.g., Appropriations and Budget).

  Search for more information, use the "Find Officials" feature on our Legislative Action Center page

- Do your homework. Check the member's website, how they vote on www.congress.gov, and their social media sites to learn about their positions on relevant issues

- Gather relevant materials. Collect any materials you intend to leave with congressional staffers, such as the FASEB issue briefs and factsheets listed below:
  - State and District Factsheets
  - Federal Funding Report
  - Breakthroughs in Bioscience and Honor or in Excellence Articles

During the Visit

- Turn off your cell phone
- Introduce yourself and mention your institutional affiliations
- Open with your "ask"
- Follow with a personal story
- Leave behind materials—including your contact information/business card—for the staffer to review

Picture: T. R. Miller, FASEB "Congress on the Hill" 2013, from left to right: former FASEB President Judith Bond, FASEB President-Elect Hudson Freeze, Adam Fagen, Tom Baldwin, Vicki Chandler, and Kim Barrett (taken as part of a congressional office visit during FASEB's 2013 Capitol Hill Day)
Meeting With Your Member of Congress

- **Be prepared.** What is your “ask?”
  - What specifically would you like the member of Congress to do? Determine if your legislator has any relevant committee appointments (e.g. Appropriations and Budget)

- **Do your homework.**
  - Check the member’s website, how they vote on [www.congress.gov](http://www.congress.gov), and their social media sites to learn about their positions on relevant issues

- **Gather relevant materials.** Collect any materials you intend to leave with congressional staffers, such as the FASEB issue briefs and factsheets listed below:
  - Factsheets
  - Federal Funding Report
  - *Breakthroughs in Bioscience* and *Horizons in Bioscience* Articles

- **Stay in touch.**
  - Follow-up the visit with an email thanking the member of Congress or staffer for their time and briefly summarizing the major issues discussed, including your “ask”
  - Keep in touch with your legislator through occasional correspondence and visits to the local office
  - Be sure to follow through on any commitments you made to staff
Federal Funding Data

As part of FASEB's effort to inform the policy development process, the Office of Public Affairs collects, compiles, and analyzes information relevant to biomedical research policy. The publications below are updated annually and along with many other resources, are available as a service to FASEB member societies and the broader research community.

Trends in NIH Research Funding

Employment and Training Trends
New NSF Factsheet

The National Science Foundation

Fundamental Research Leads to Discovery

"The most beautiful thing we can experience is the mysterious. It is the source of all true art and science." — Albert Einstein

National Science Foundation (NSF) by the Numbers

In a given year, NSF awards nearly 12,000 research grants across all 50 states.

NSF supports about one-fourth of all federally funded basic research at US colleges and universities.

NSF distributes funds through a rigorous, competitive merit review process.

Indispensable Financial Support

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has a mission to support basic research leading to transformative discoveries in science, technology, engineering, and math.

NSF-funded discoveries enable translational developments in public health, national security, and commercial industry.

NSF provides indispensable financial support to colleges, universities, institutes, and national laboratories, enabling cutting-edge research in all 50 states and worldwide.

Sustained Support Means Basic Science Findings Build Towards Discoveries

Gene Editing

A technology called CRISPR-Cas9 allows biologists to modify the genes of virtually every organism tested so far, including humans.

CRISPR-Cas9, which began as basic research about how bacteria fend off viruses, has led to breakthroughs in cancer treatment, agricultural innovation, and biofuel production.

Imaging

Over 50 years of steady NSF support has funded the development of Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI), a tissue-scanning technique that has become a staple of medicine and clinical research world-wide.

NSF is now funding the next frontier of imaging technology to visualize complex and delicate organs like the heart and brain at high resolution and in real time.

NSF Needs Robust, Sustained Support Over Time

Between 2005 and 2016, the number of research proposals grew by 18% (7,600 additional submissions).

However, the NSF budget has not increased in a decade despite increased opportunity for discovery and growing demand for funds.

NSF Supports the Pillars of a Vibrant Research Infrastructure

The NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program, a highly competitive source of funding for our best students, helps educate the scientific and engineering leaders of the future.

NSF supports equal opportunity by funding career development programs for women and underrepresented minorities in science.

NSF-supported graduates supply the talent needed in the high-tech industries that fuel US economic growth and improve our quality of life.
Invite Officials to Visit Your Lab

- Invite members of Congress and/or their staff to visit your laboratory
  - They can see first-hand the important research happening in their district
  - Builds personal relationships with congressional offices
  - Helps *them* to be better advocates in Washington
  - Introduces them to real scientists
Connect on Twitter @FASEBopa

Sample Tweets

- Thanks @TWITTERHANDLE for supporting research. Please increase funding for @NIH by $2 billion in #FY18! #FundScience

- @TWITTERHANDLE Federal funding for #NIH is impt to [insert state or district]. Click here 4 the latest data: http://ow.ly/lpKq30d2e1D #FundScience

- Thanks to @TWITTERHANDLE for mtg w/ me in [insert city/town]. Please increase funding for NIH by $2 billion in #FY18! #FundScience

- Thanks @TWITTERHANDLE for hosting Town Hall in [insert city/town] Please increase funding for NIH by $2 billion in #FY18! #FundScience

- @TWITTERHANDLE You can help increase the NIH budget by voting to raise the budget caps in #FY18

- Help #FundScience by urging Congress to urge them to raise the budget caps in #FY18 for @NIH
Submitting a Letter or Op-Ed

Representing 30 scientific societies and 125,000 researchers from around the world.

Writing Letters-to-the-Editor and Opinion Pieces

Letters-to-the-editor (LTE), commentaries, and op-eds can help advocates for research funding and educate the public about seminal issues. They are widely read by elected officials, their aides, and people in your community. Here are some tips for writing and submitting a letter or op-ed to your local newspaper:

- **Write a Letter**
  - Make it relevant: Your letter may have a greater chance of being seen if it is in response to an editorial, op-ed, or front-page story within 2-3 days of publication. Do not rely on the original story's name, date, and author.
  - Be concise: The first sentence should summarize your position.
  - Make it personal: Share your expertise to show you have credibility on the subject matter.
  - Avoid jargon: Spell out any names the first time you use it, followed by the acronym in parentheses.
  - Make it local: Newspapers prefer to print editorials and letters that address local issues. Consider including several funding bills for your state and district.

- **Most word counts**
  - Allow for the requested word limit, guidelines, and notes on the website. If no word limit is given, keep it short—250 words or less for LTE and 750 words or less for op-ed.

**Submit Your Letter**

- Find the instructions on the publication's website about how to submit a LTE or op-ed. For example, submit a letter to the editor.

**Sample Letters-to-the-Editor and Op-eds**

- Federal research dollars fuel vital science in Utah and letter
  - NIH-funded basic research (The Baltimore Sun) - by Dr. Huda Zoghbi
  - NIH Congress must commit to science funding in budget talks (Alabama) - by Louis B. Justement, Ph.D.
  - Women living with HIV (USA Today) - Franklin L. Trull, Ph.D., president of the Foundation for Biomedical Research

- Federal research dollars fuel vital science in Utah and letter

- NIH cuts threaten Baltimore research

  By Neil Block, Baltimore Sun

  October 9, 2015, 1:59 PM

  If you end up near the Baltimore Convention Center this week, you may notice countless people carrying black and blue tote bags. The American Society of Human Genetics is meeting there through Saturday, bringing 8,000 researchers, clinicians and ethicists from more than 60 countries to the city.
Other Tools to Stay Engaged

Sign-up to receive FASEB E-Action Alerts

Subscribe to the bi-weekly Washington Update newsletter
http://washingtonupdate.faseb.org

Follow us on Facebook
facebook.com/FASEB.org/
To Ask A Question

Type your question in the white box and click “Send” (gray button)
Thank You!

For more information or to submit additional questions, contact:

FASEB Office of Public Affairs


or

communications@faseb.org

@FASEBopa