



# FASEB

Federation of American Societies  
for Experimental Biology

## Representing 125,000 Researchers

301.634.7000  
www.faseb.org

9650 Rockville Pike  
Bethesda, MD 20814

May 10, 2016

Douglas M. Sheeley, ScD  
Division of Biomedical Technology, Bioinformatics, and Computational Biology  
National Institute of General Medical Sciences  
National Institutes of Health

Comments submitted via email to: [nigmsresource@mail.nih.gov](mailto:nigmsresource@mail.nih.gov)

Dear Dr. Sheeley:

The Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB) thanks the National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS) for the opportunity to comment on the research resource needs of biological and biomedical researchers and strategies for supporting such resources. FASEB comprises 30 member societies collectively representing 125,000 biomedical and biological investigators, many of whom rely on shared resources for the conduct of their research. Therefore, FASEB appreciates NIGMS's comprehensive approach to this issue, as research resources are an important, yet often overlooked, component of scientific infrastructure. Specifically, FASEB encourages NIGMS to consider the following three themes as it explores mechanisms of support for these resources.

**Maximize access:** Lack of awareness among potential users is a common cause for the underutilization of research resources. To enhance community awareness of these resources, NIGMS should identify strategies to enhance discoverability and support their implementation. Similarly, limiting access by sponsor or research discipline reduces the potential impact of resources, and it can serve as a barrier to conducting interdisciplinary or highly collaborative research. Therefore, FASEB encourages NIGMS to structure resource grants and programs to emphasize broad utilization and promote diverse user bases.

**Ensure sustainability of resources:** Stable and sustainable support ensures continuity of methods, enhances research reproducibility, and helps retain the expert personnel who manage the resources and facilitate their use. By addressing unmet needs such as support for service contracts and maintenance, NIGMS can serve as a leader in this area. Similarly, NIGMS can spearhead efforts that will facilitate cost-saving improvements to facilities such as core consolidation or upgrades to management software. As research efforts sponsored by many different NIH Institutes benefit from the availability of resources, NIGMS should also explore opportunities for coordinated or collaborative support, which might offer greater funding stability.

**Increase professional recognition:** Investigators engaged in team science and the management of shared resource facilities should be recognized for their important and unique contributions to research. Unfortunately, these same activities often place faculty at a disadvantage in the tenure review process. FASEB recommends that NIGMS explore grant structures that offer these investigators comparable

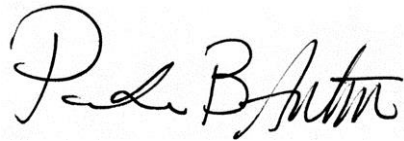
---

The American Physiological Society • American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology • American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics  
American Society for Investigative Pathology • American Society for Nutrition • The American Association of Immunologists • American Association of Anatomists  
The Protein Society • Society for Developmental Biology • American Peptide Society • Association of Biomolecular Resource Facilities  
The American Society for Bone and Mineral Research • American Society for Clinical Investigation • Society for the Study of Reproduction • The Teratology Society  
The Endocrine Society • The American Society of Human Genetics • International Society for Computational Biology • American College of Sports Medicine  
Biomedical Engineering Society • Genetics Society of America • American Federation for Medical Research • The Histochemical Society • Society for Pediatric Research  
Society for Glycobiology • Association for Molecular Pathology • Society for Redox Biology and Medicine • Society For Experimental Biology and Medicine  
American Aging Association (AGE) • U.S. Human Proteome Organization (US HUPO)

indicators of productivity and research impact. For instance, NIGMS could convene stakeholders to develop a set of metrics for evaluating researchers involved in creation and provision of shared resources.

FASEB thanks NIGMS for this opportunity to provide comments on this critical area of research infrastructure. As NIGMS considers how to most effectively and efficiently support research resources, please do not hesitate to contact me if FASEB can provide further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Parker B. Antin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "P".

Parker B. Antin, PhD  
FASEB President