

## **FASEB Applauds Passage of Legislation Providing Funding for Research Related to Coronavirus March 30, 2020**

The Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB) commends Congress for working in a bipartisan manner to pass a fourth COVID-related spending package to address the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. FASEB is especially pleased that the bill includes more than \$940 million for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and stipulates that this funding be available through fiscal year 2024 to support research that will prevent, prepare for, and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, the National Science Foundation (NSF) will receive \$76 million in critically needed new funding.

Amid the global COVID-19 pandemic, investments in the biological sciences are more critical than ever in order to address the current crisis, prevent future outbreaks, and deal with our nation's numerous other health challenges. NIH has already made several contributions to our understanding of coronavirus including the [recent announcement](#) that researchers funded by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease (NIAID) found that SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, can be detected in aerosols and on surfaces for longer periods of time than previously expected, providing critical information to help prevent infection. Additionally, NIAID/NIH has also advanced a SARS-CoV-2 phase I vaccine trial that began in Seattle on March 6th.

The additional funding for NIH in the current bill provides the agency with resources needed to continue the effort to rapidly develop new diagnostic tests, vaccines and therapeutics (anti-viral drugs). NSF will be able to expand its Rapid Response Research (RAPID) grant program that supports near real-time research at the cellular, physiological, and ecological levels to better understand the spread of COVID-19 and how to address this global challenge. Continued support for federal agencies, including NIH and NSF, as well as the Centers for Disease Control and the Food and Drug Administration, that pursue the scientific breakthroughs, gather critical data, and oversee the public health is essential to mounting an effective response against the COVID-19 pandemic.

Scientific discovery and the reliance on scientific data have provided the foundation for tremendous technological and societal advances in the US. FASEB appreciates the ongoing efforts to allow science to determine the best path forward during the COVID-19 pandemic.