



# Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology

----Quality Life Through Research----

## Member Societies

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  
Teratology Society  
The Endocrine Society  
The American Society of Human Genetics  
Society for Gynecologic Investigation  
Environmental Mutagen Society  
International Society for Computational Biology  
American College of Sports Medicine

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Dear Ms. Otto:

As an organizational supporter of Science Debate 2008, the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB), our 21 member societies and the over 80,000 scientists they represent recognize the importance of engaging with our nation's leaders about science, technology and research. I thank you for catalyzing this important effort to bring about a debate that will address science and how it affects the health of the American people, our economy and our resources. On behalf of our membership, I have enclosed the following questions for your consideration for use in the April 18 debate. The questions address a wide range of topics including federal funding of basic scientific research, American scientific competitiveness, and the role of biomedical research in improving the nation's health. If you would like additional information or have any questions, please contact Kimberly McGuire, FASEB Public Policy Associate at [kmcguire@faseb.org](mailto:kmcguire@faseb.org) or (301) 634-7650.

Sincerely,

Robert E. Palazzo, Ph.D.  
FASEB President

**Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology**  
**Proposed Questions for Science Debate 2008:**

1. As the baby boom generation ages, more Americans are going to suffer from Alzheimer's, diabetes, cancer, and other chronic diseases. What is the role of federally funded health research in addressing these illnesses?
2. Recent years have seen increased concerns about drug-resistant super-bugs like MRSA, public health threats like avian flu, and the global threat of manmade biological agents. What steps will your administration take to prevent suffering and loss of life from under-studied and emerging diseases, both manmade and natural?
3. What role will health research play in your health care plan? How will your administration balance federal funding for health care with federal funding to find medically effective and cost-effective treatments and cures for disease?
4. Do you believe that the U.S. government invests adequately in science and technology compared to other countries, compared to other national priorities, and compared to years past when we were much more competitive internationally than we are now?
5. Diminished funding for science in recent years has made it increasingly difficult for the U.S. to attract and retain scientific talent. In order to receive support, many researchers are forced to choose conservative science over riskier innovation. What will your administration do to encourage innovation and restore America's global competitiveness?
6. In your administration, what will be the role of the President's scientific advisor and other science experts in the development of administration policy?
7. Recent advances in gene sequencing have provided exciting new opportunities for advances in treatments for many diseases. To move forward, strong support is needed for federal science agencies like the NIH and VA research organizations. What do you believe is the optimal funding level for these agencies and how will your administration achieve this?
8. Lawmakers frequently come under pressure to earmark funding for specific diseases or conditions. How should funds be allocated across the many paths that will lead to new cures and treatments?