

What is FASEB, Anyway?

Efficient administrative infrastructure and collaborative advocacy are essential elements to an effective professional membership organization. The Federation of American Societies of Experimental Biology (FASEB) provides those basics through the Society's membership in the Federation. ASHG is 1 of 21 member societies in FASEB, which represents a total of >80,000 scientists. Comprehensive information about FASEB and its member societies is available at the FASEB Web site (<http://www.FASEB.org/>).

Organizational Structure of FASEB

Like other alliances of organizations, FASEB has a board of directors that includes one representative from each member society. The Board of Directors, along with the very active Science Policy Committee, set the direction for the focus of FASEB in policy discussions and advocacy.

Institutional Structure of FASEB

FASEB owns and operates a campus in Bethesda, just north of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) campus. In addition to buildings and grounds, FASEB maintains information technology and communications infrastructure, and small conference facilities and provides financial expertise and human resources support. Executive officers of all the member organizations meet regularly with the FASEB Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Guy Fogleman.

FASEB also maintains a meetings-management staff that is very useful to ASHG in the planning and implementation of our Annual Meeting. Meeting-site arrangements, hotel contracts, security, and many of the convention center details are provided by our capable colleagues from FASEB, including Pauline Minhinnett, Meeting Manager for the ASHG Annual Meeting.

FASEB Office of Public Affairs

ASHG develops policy statements, editorials, and white papers on a variety of subjects that are of particular importance to the genetics community (available at <http://www.ashg.org/genetics/ashg/news/025.shtml>), but the adage that there is "power in numbers" rings particularly true when approaching the Hill. Therefore, as a member society, ASHG collaborates and advocates with other member organizations on public policy issues through the FASEB Office of Public Affairs. For general issues that affect the scientific research community more broadly, such as federal funding, it is essential to have a powerful voice. FASEB is recognized as the lead organization in Washington, DC, in the development of an Annual Federal Funding Report. This report assists all advocates in making the case for enhanced federal funding for research through many agencies, including the NIH. Although Congress and the Administration have not been focused on or as supportive of the scientific research community in recent years, it is through consistent, even relentless meetings and negotiations that basic and clinical research funding remains a major federal priority in the face of the many challenges of the world. The elected leadership of FASEB, as well as all the member organizations, are active in and encourage the scientific community to engage in this educational and advocacy process.

The Office of Public Affairs also produces a Washington Update on a biweekly basis while Congress is in session, which is avail-

able to all ASHG members (the current FASEB update is available at <http://opa.faseb.org/pages/Washingtonupdate>). Policy statements made by FASEB are also available at the FASEB Web site. As the scientific community is more broadly represented by the Federation, for some topics, rather than going through a demanding process to develop an independent statement, the ASHG Board of Directors reviews and concurs with the FASEB statement. One such case is the FASEB statement on the teaching of evolution, which emphasizes that curricular materials presented as science must be testable as a scientific hypothesis and consistent with any description of science adopted by the National Academy of Sciences. Other general science issues addressed by the Federation may be viewed at the FASEB Web site.

Publications

The Federation also sustains *The FASEB Journal*, a monthly scientific publication that is well recognized across a broad array of research areas. Members of all FASEB member organizations are encouraged to submit articles for publication in the journal.

A unique set of publications produced by FASEB is *Breakthroughs in Bioscience*, a series of professionally written, individually bound articles suitable for distribution to educated public policy makers or for use in classrooms. These articles follow a recent scientific advance through the basic science and translational research that led to clinical utility, such as the study of estrogen, breast cancer, and Tamoxifen. Copies of these articles are available at the FASEB Web site or from the Office of Public Affairs.

Career Services

The Career Services Office of FASEB collaborates with ASHG in providing three primary services. First, at the ASHG Annual Meeting, FASEB has an exhibit booth with career counseling and internet services available to assist persons seeking jobs and to provide assistance with resume writing and interviewing skills. FASEB personnel also assist with the Job Fair "Meet 'n Greet" at our Annual Meeting, where those who are seeking positions and organizations with open positions have a facilitated opportunity to meet each other.

Finally, ASHG is a part of the FASEB "Careers OnLine," a resource free to job seekers. Applicants register online by completing a data-profile form. Employers advertise in the "Careers OnLine Classified" listing. The site is marketed, maintained, and updated continuously and may be found by clicking on the "Careers OnLine" link on the ASHG home page (<http://www.ashg.org/>).

Conclusion

FASEB provides a useful and effective infrastructure for many organizations and significantly expands the advocacy and policy capabilities of its 21 member societies. ASHG continues to capitalize on this important synergy and is pleased to be a part of FASEB.

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ASHG