FASEB news

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Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology
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FASEB COMMENTS ON OIG COMPLIANCE PROGRAM GUIDANCE FOR RECIPIENTS OF PHS RESEARCH AWARDS

Bethesda, MD – In response to the Draft Office of Inspector General Compliance Program Guidance for Recipients of PHS Research Awards, the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB) issued comments addressing the most problematic provisions, stating that the guidance may not be necessary, and could prove detrimental. FASEB recommends that the current guidelines in OMB Circulars A-21, A-122, A-133, and A-110 continue to be used. "FASEB is concerned that agency-specific guidance might confuse investigators and institutions and create unnecessary paperwork and effort without concomitant improvements in grants compliance and administration," said FASEB President Bruce Bistrian, M.D., Ph.D. The Federation's chief concerns are the use of the term "timekeeping" in the time and effort reporting section, a lack of flexibility in allocating charges to award projects, and the proposal that exit interviews include mechanisms to solicit suspected tales of misconduct. Several aspects of the guidance may result "in a waste of funds that could be better spent advancing science and educating students," Bistrian noted.

FASEB's entire letter to the Inspector General can be read here.

FASEB is composed of 22 societies with more than 84,000 members, making it the largest coalition of biomedical research associations in the United States. FASEB's mission is to enhance the ability of biomedical and life scientists to improve—through their research—the health, well-being and productivity of all people. FASEB serves the interests of these scientists in those areas related to public policy, facilitates coalition activities among Member Societies and disseminates information on biological research through scientific conferences and publications.