



FASEB Urges IOM to Promote More Consistent Management of Academic-Industry Relationships in Research

The Federation of American Societies of Experimental Biology (FASEB) urged the Institute of Medicine (IOM) committee developing recommendations for conflicts of interest in medicine to promote more consistent policies and practices for the management of academic-industry relationships in research, based on the principles of objectivity, transparency, and accountability. MORE

FASEB Past President Leo T. Furcht, M.D., who chaired FASEB's three-year effort to develop COI guidelines for investigators, spoke to the IOM committee at a March 13th meeting. Dr. Furcht said that the current lack of clarity and consistency in some areas of policies and practices may cause confusion and noncompliance by investigators and that those responsible for developing policies should continue to address this issue.

In addition, Dr. Furcht said that investigators must do their part by complying with requirements and voluntary practices that enhance objectivity, transparency, and accountability. Public trust is critical to ongoing support of the research enterprise, and investigators must be aware of how the public and colleagues perceive their actions.

Dr. Furcht also highlighted the FASEB "Conflict of Interest Toolkit" website, <http://opa.faseb.org/pages/Advocacy/coi/Toolkit.htm>, to promote better management of academic-industry relationships in research by providing practical tools and resources.

Academic-industry relationships are essential to translating basic research into medicine and therapies that improve health. However, given the ongoing concerns about conflicts of interest and despite the efforts of FASEB and other organizations to address them, Dr. Furcht asked, "Are we doing enough to prevent a Congressional mandate for the extramural community?"

The IOM committee plans to meet three more times before it develops its report.