

Representing Over 130,000 Researchers

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FASEB Statement Supporting Research with Nonhuman Primates

As the largest coalition of biomedical researchers in the United States, representing 29 societies and over 130,000 scientists and engineers, the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB) recognizes the essential contribution of research animals, including nonhuman primates, to the improved health of both humans and animals, and we strongly support the continued appropriate use of these animals in the biomedical research endeavor. FASEB affirms that nonhuman primates serve as premier models for discovering disease mechanisms and new treatments and vaccines that will significantly impact a vast number of scientific, medical, and public health disciplines.

Research with nonhuman primates is strictly regulated by the Animal Welfare Act, which ensures proper veterinary care, appropriate housing, and compliance with rules governing the welfare of animals during research. The genetic and physiological similarities between humans and nonhuman primates uniquely position these animals as the best model to study many disorders, including infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS which impact the health and conservation of the nonhuman primate population. These similarities have already proven valuable to the development of treatments not only for HIV/AIDS, but also vaccine development for polio, measles, and tuberculosis. The utility of these models is particularly critical to the burgeoning field of neuroscience, with nonhuman primate research continuing to provide innovative discoveries for neurological diseases – including Parkinson's and Alzheimer's – that afflict a growing number of Americans. Nonhuman primate models also have been critical to improvements in organ transplants, infertility, and behavior that benefit large numbers of people worldwide. Therefore, FASEB supports continued federal support for research using nonhuman primate models to ensure sustained progress in the biomedical sciences.

American Aging Association • U.S. Human Proteome Organization • Society of Toxicology