



FASEB

Federation of American Societies
for Experimental Biology

FROM PIPETTES TO POLICY: CAREER OPPORTUNITIES IN SCIENCE POLICY

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January 23, 2018

Topics Covered

My background

- Who am I and how did I get here?

What is science policy?

- What is it?
- What do policy people do?

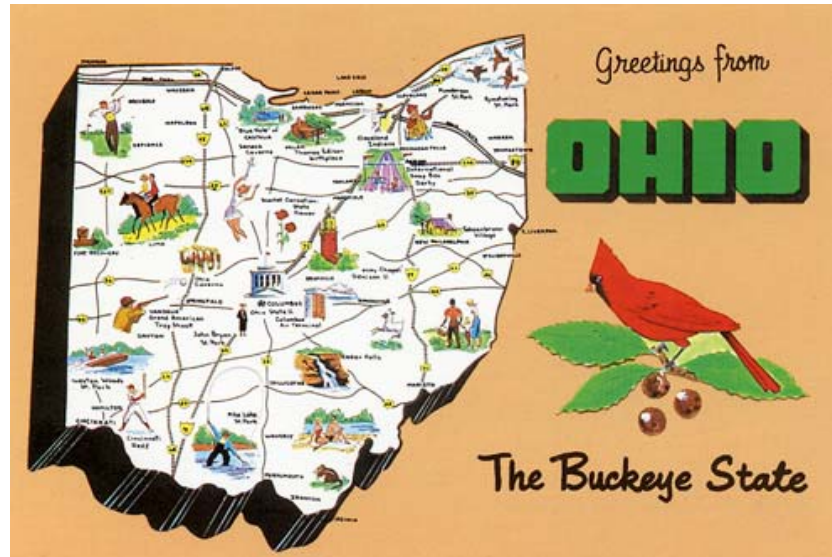
Pursuing a career in science policy

- Skills that transfer from bench to Beltway
- Strategies to develop policy-specific skills
- Jump-starting a career in science policy



My Background

About Me...



I  **VOTING**

Educational Background



BA, Ohio Wesleyan University
Zoology (Genetics) and Politics & Government



PhD, SUNY-Stony Brook
Genetics (Hannon Lab, CSHL)

Career Highlights

- **National Academies – Committee on Science, Engineering, and Public Policy**
Christine Mirzayan Science and Technology Policy Fellow
(Summer 2004)
- ***FasterCures*** (2004 – 2006)
Research Associate
- **National Institutes of Health – Office of the Director** (2006 – 2009)
Senior Health Science Policy Analyst
(Secretary's Advisory Committee on Genetics, Health, and Society)
- **Discovery Logic/Thomson Reuters** (2009 – 2013)
Senior Scientific Analyst
Strategy Associate
Project Manager/Project Lead
- **Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology** (2013 – present)
Director of Science Policy

What does FASEB do?

□ Our Mission...

- ▣ Advance health and welfare by promoting progress and education in biological and biomedical sciences through service to our member societies and collaborative advocacy.

□ It is accomplished through Public Affairs activities including...

- ▣ Policy research and development
- ▣ Advocacy and our role as government liaison
- ▣ Coalition building
- ▣ Communication and outreach

Who are we?

- **31 Professional Societies**

- **Over 130,000 Scientists**



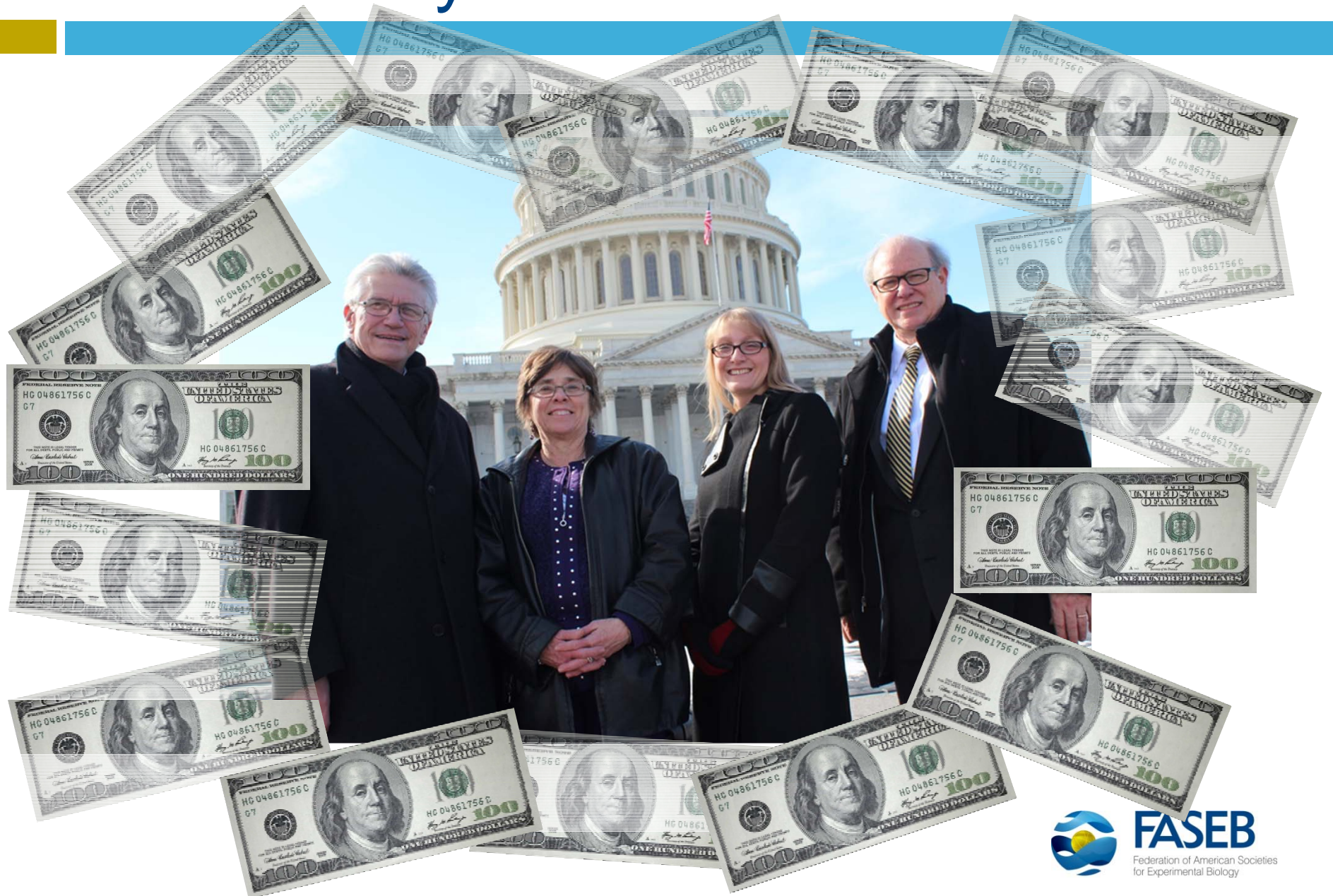
American Society for Nutrition
Excellence in Nutrition Research and Practice



Society for Developmental Biology
Advancing the field of developmental biology



What Everyone Thinks I Do...



What I Actually Do...



No really...what do you do?

- **Manage the FASEB's science policy team and portfolio**
- **Gather information and develop strategy**
- **Write (a lot)**
- **Talk (even more, especially on the phone)**
- **Prepare FASEB's leadership for speaking gigs**
- **Develop resources for scientists and the public**
- **Plan events**
- **Attend meetings**
- **Network**



What is Science Policy?

Categories of Science Policy

Science for Policy

- Application of science to develop and drive policy decisions

Policy for Science

- Government laws, regulations, and policies that affect scientists and the research and development enterprise

Who Drives Policy Development?

- Executive Branch (President, OSTP)
- Legislative Branch (Congress)
- Judicial Branch (Supreme Court)
- Federal Agencies (NIH, NSF, USDA, FDA, etc.)
- Federal Advisory Committees (NAS/IOM, ACD, SACHRP)
- State Governments
- Universities
- Accrediting/Licensing Organizations
- Professional Organizations
- Industry
- Think Tanks
- Disease Advocacy Organizations

Step 1: Someone has an idea

[Office of the Federal Register \[US\]](#) <https://www.federalregister.gov/>

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The Daily Journal of the United States Government

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FASEB
Federation of American Societies
For Experimental Biology

**An environment for scientific discourse and collaboration.
It's not just a conference. It's a community.**

[Science Research Conferences](#) [Science Policy, Advocacy & Communications](#) [Resources for the Public](#) [The FASEB Journal](#) [Professional Development & Diversity Resources](#) [Association Management Services](#) [Directory of Members](#)

11/17/2014

125 Notices 10 Proposed Rules

Agriculture Department

Due to the lapse in government funding, the information on this website may not respond to inquiries until appropriations are enacted.

Updates regarding government operating status and resumption of normal operations.

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Open Mike
Helping connect you with the NIH people

Science Policy & Research Issues

Animals in Research and Education
Clinical and Translational Research
Data Science and Informatics
Federal Agency Research Portfolios
Regulatory Burden and Research Administration
Research Enterprise Evaluation
Research Integrity
Research Reproducibility

Shared Research Resources

Maximizing Shared Research Resources Report
Stock Center Database
Sustaining Discovery
Training and Career Opportunities for Scientists
Additional Science Policy Issues
Other Publications and Reports

Federal Funding Data

Become an Advocate
Science Policy News
Communicating Science

Science Policy Advocacy and Communications > Science Policy and Research Issues > Shared Research Resources > Maximizing Shared Research Resources Report

New FASEB Shared Resources Report Provides Path Forward for Improvement

Shared research resources – from core facilities to living collections and national laboratories – make efficient use of funds and broaden researchers' access to advanced technologies and materials. But shared resource providers face challenges that limit their ability to offer cutting-edge services. Through a survey of resource users and providers, FASEB identified four key areas for improvement. In a new report, FASEB details these findings and offers recommendations.

[View Part I: Recommendations](#)

[View Part II: Survey Findings](#)

[View the Appendix](#)

Initiative and Data

Maximizing Shared Research Resources
Part I: Recommendations from the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology

Welcome to the Open Mike

Peter H. Schuck, the former deputy dean of the Yale Law School, recently published the book, *Why Government Fails So Often: and How It Can Do Better*,¹ a rather depressing explanation of how public regard for government has steadily declined since the 60s and 70s.

After 10 chapters that detail why the US Federal Government fails and fails again, along comes Chapter 11. No, not a chapter on bankruptcy, but on "Policy Successes." And one of the several policy successes he mentions include an agency that you and I are well familiar with ... the National Institutes of Health. The author notes, "Even small-government advocates generally concede an important role to the Federal Government [in] basic research

Dr. Michael Lauer is NIH's Deputy Director for Extramural Research, serving as the principal scientific leader and advisor to the NIH Director on the NIH extramural research program.

a they generate through federally-funded research e knowledge and skills in the important areas of the courses and online learning materials already available on

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for experimental biology

Step 2: Collect Information

- Responses to Requests for Information
- Expert Interviews
- Testimony/Public Comments
- Database Combing
- Literature Search

Step 3: Develop Recommendations

- Data and feedback are used to develop recommendations (in theory, this should make everyone's job easier/keep people safe/decrease costs – but this is not always the case)

...and the process continues...



Pursuing a Career in Science Policy

Is Science Policy for You?

Do you enjoy...

- ☐ Learning a little bit about a lot of issues (instead of a lot about one topic)?
- ☐ Keeping up with current events and issues in science?
- ☐ Interacting with people and resolving disagreements?
- ☐ Teaching scientific concepts (explaining scientific information to non-scientists?)
- ☐ A fast-paced working environment?
- ☐ Writing for non-scientific audiences?
- ☐ Working under the pressure of tight deadlines?

Skills that Transfer to Policy

- Understanding of the scientific process
- Subject matter expertise
- Analytical/critical thinking skills
- Ability to interpret and synthesize data
- Framing/communicating results
- Project management/collaboration skills

Skills You May Need to Develop

□ Communication

- ▣ Convey scientific information and its importance to non-scientists
- ▣ Non-technical writing
- ▣ Public speaking



□ Consensus Building

- ▣ FASEB statements reflect the views of 31 diverse organizations

□ Networking

- ▣ Being well-connected and fostering professional relationships

To Postdoc or Not to Postdoc?

- What are your policy interests?
- Are you interested in policies related to a specific area of science?
- How close do you want to stay to science?

Pro Tip: ALWAYS go into a postdoc with a PLAN.

Where do you find science policy professionals?

- **Government and government advisory bodies**
 - ▣ Congress
 - ▣ White House
 - ▣ Science agencies (NIH, NSF, etc.) ✓
 - ▣ National Academies ✓
- **Associations** (scientific societies, disease organizations) ✓
- **Industry** (pharmaceutical and biotech companies)
- **Universities** (government relations offices)
- **Think Tanks** ✓
- **Start Ups** ✓

Pathways to Careers in Science Policy

Great ways to dip your toe into science policy:

- ☐ Join and participate in a scientific society or organization
- ☐ Stay informed on science issues in the news
- ☐ Teach or mentor in your community
- ☐ Volunteer at a local science museum
- ☐ Contribute articles or letters to local newspapers and/or institution or society newsletters
- ☐ Participate in a Capitol Hill Day
- ☐ Invite elected officials to your lab
- ☐ Network to make contacts outside your field (and keep them)

Pathways to Careers in Science Policy

Great ways to transition to a science policy career:

- ☐ Organize policy discussion groups
- ☐ Work on a political campaign
- ☐ Informational interviews with science policy professionals
- ☐ Internships with institutional Offices of Government Relations, Technology Transfer, or Sponsored Research
- ☐ Internships with foundations or advocacy organizations
- ☐ Established Fellowship programs (AAAS, National Academies, Society Fellowships, etc.)

Reasons to Pursue a Fellowship

- Enrich scientific training with policy experience
- Interest in assisting with the development of policy in a specific area
- Desire to “test-drive” a career in policy

Fellowship Goals

- Increase awareness of the policy process within the scientific community
- Incorporate subject matter experts (e.g., YOU) into the development of policy
- Engage researchers in advocacy activities
- Enhance communication skills of scientists
- Expand career opportunities available for PhD-trained scientists

Finding a Fellowship

- Professional Societies/Associations
- Foundations
- Government Agencies (State & Federal)
- Institutional

FASEB Website: <http://bit.ly/1Y0xuP9>

AAAS Website:

<http://www.aaas.org/page/stpf/fellowship-resources>

For More Information...

FASEB Office of Public Affairs

<http://www.faseb.org/Science-Policy-and-Advocacy.aspx>

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Questions/Discussion