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## **Cell Biologists Praise Obama for Lifting Bush Ban**

**Bethesda, MD**, March 13, 2009 — The American Society for Cell Biology (ASCB) thanks U.S. President Obama for removing the ban on federal funding of human embryonic stem cell research imposed by President George Bush in 2001. The ASCB fought for almost eight years to overturn the Bush policy that placed severe limits on the research done by federally funded stem cell researchers.

Brigid Hogan, President of the ASCB said, “We applaud the President for freeing the hands of America’s scientists. We look forward to working with the National Institutes of Health (NIH) as it constructs the guidelines called for by President Obama.” Hogan continued, “We also continue to urge Congress to provide NIH-funded researchers with the annual funding necessary to conduct stem cell research and other critical areas of biomedical research. Without steady and dependable funding increases, the change in policy will be of little value.”

Scientists believe that human embryonic stem cells hold great promise for replacing damaged cells and tissues, and providing researchers with an understanding of the mechanics of human disease. Stem cells may also aid in the testing and development of new drugs. The Bush policy severely limited the work of American biomedical researchers. It also threatened America’s role as an international scientific leader and slowed advances in scientific advances.

For more information, contact ASCB Public Policy Director Kevin Wilson at (301) 347-9300.