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## **Cell Biologists Hail Collins Confirmation**

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The American Society for Cell Biology (ASCB), a nonprofit organization representing over 10,000 basic biomedical researchers in the United States and 50 other countries, hailed the U.S. Senate's unanimous confirmation of Francis Collins to be the next director of the U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH).

ASCB Past President Robert Goldman, a friend and colleague of Collins, said Collins "is an outstanding choice for the position of Director of the NIH."

Goldman continued, "All of us who attended his keynote lecture at last year's ASCB meeting were not only inspired by his grasp of the important role of cell biology in biomedical research, but also thoroughly enjoyed to the lyrics [he wrote and sang] while strumming the guitar. I have come to know Francis through a collaborative research project which was initiated immediately after his remarkable discovery that mutations in the human nuclear lamin A gene cause Progeria, the premature aging disease of children."

Collins most recently served as director of the National Center for Human Genome Research at the U.S. National Institutes of Health from 1993 until 2008. In this role, Collins oversaw a 15-year effort to map the human DNA.

The ASCB looks forward to working with Collins and the NIH on continued support for basic research and science-friendly policies.