Ladies and Gentlemen, I am Robert Wells, and it is my privilege to be President of the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB). On behalf of the FASEB Board of Directors, I welcome you to the dedication of our new headquarters building. We are pleased that you could join us for this significant event in FASEB’s history.

We honored to have federal, state and local representatives, who have graciously volunteered to say a few words on this momentous occasion. Before I introduce them, let me take a few seconds to acknowledge a few of our other distinguished guests in the audience. With us today are . . .

Our first speaker is U.S. Representative Chris Van Hollen. While Representative Van Hollen is in his first term in Congress, he is making his second trip to the FASEB campus. He has been a strong supporter of NIH, and Roll Call newspaper has named him one of the “rising stars” in Congress. Please join me in welcoming Chris Van Hollen.

Maryland Governor Robert Ehrlich is not able to join us today. He has, however, asked Aris Melissaratos (MELISSA RATOS), Secretary of the Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development, to represent him. An engineer and former Vice President of Science and Technology for Westinghouse, Mr Melissaratos is a founding co-chair of the Greater Baltimore Technology Council and a member of the National Advisory Council of the Whiting School of Engineering at the Johns Hopkins University. Please join me in welcoming him to the FASEB campus.
The Honorable Brian Frosh represents the 16th District, Montgomery County, in the Maryland Senate. A native of Washington D.C., Senator Frosh attended public school in Montgomery County and has been active in this area in the State House of Representatives and State Senate since 1987. Senator Frosh has been the recipient of legislator of the year awards from the American Lung Association, the Audubon Society, the Maryland Bar Association and the Maryland Chapter of the Sierra Club. We are honored to have Senator Frosh with us today.

Councilman George Leventhal is serving in his first term as “at large” representative to the Montgomery County Council. Councilman Leventhal is very familiar with FASEB and medical research. Prior to his election to the council, Mr. Leventhal served Senior Federal Relations Officer for the Association of American Universities (AAU). In this position, he advised the presidents of our nation’s major research universities on policy developments related to higher education and scientific research. Please welcome Councilman Leventhal.

Our next speaker is Dr. Ruth Kirschstein. Ruth Kirschstein’s extraordinary contributions to medicine and public health have earned her numerous awards and accolades including the FASEB and ASBMB public service awards. From her scientific contributions testing the oral polio vaccine to her outstanding leadership of NIGMS and NIH, she has been a central figure in the dramatic progress of medical research. Thank you for joining us today, Dr. Kirschstein.