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PRESIDENT OBAMA ADDRESSES SCIENCE POLICY IN SPEECH TO NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

Declaring that: "Science is more essential for our prosperity, our security, our health, our environment, and our quality of life than it has ever been," President Obama spoke at the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) on April 27. With the spread of swine flu dominating the headlines, the President noted that "our capacity to deal with a public health challenge of this sort rests heavily on the work of our scientific and medical community."

Yet, echoing the NAS report *Rising Above the Gathering Storm*, Obama declared that our nation has fallen behind. He noted the decline in spending for the physical sciences as a portion of our GDP, the failure to make the research and experimentation tax credit permanent, and the continued outperforming of American students in math and science in international comparison tests. He also asserted that "scientific integrity has been undermined and scientific research politicized in an effort to advance predetermined ideological agendas."

To "lead once again" in science and technology, the President vowed to "devote more than three percent of our GDP to research and development." (It is now around 2.5 percent). He noted the "largest single boost to investment in basic research in American history" contained in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. In his discussion of the importance of basic research he suggested "an investigation into a particular physical, chemical or biological process might not pay off for a year, or a decade, or at all," but when it does the rewards are large "for our economy and our society."

Discussing his FY 2010 budget proposals, Obama pledged to continue the double funding for "key agencies" such as the National Science Foundation (NSF), the National Institute of Standards and Technology, and the Department of Energy's Office of Science. The America COMPETES Act passed in 2007 included such provisions.

The President reiterated his commitment to a new energy policy, suggesting that in no area "will innovation be more important than in the development of new technologies to produce, use, and save energy." He admitted that unlike 1957 when Sputnik galvanized a Federal commitment to science and education, there will be no single event to rally the nation around the challenge to break our nation's dependence on fossil fuels. For Obama, that makes it all the more imperative "to keep our eyes fixed on the work ahead."

He touted his commitment to reforming the U.S. health care system. He cited recent progress – "not just in biology, genetics, and medicine, but also in physics, chemistry, computer science, and engineering" – as helping "to make enormous progress against diseases in the coming decades." Obama mentioned his commitment to increased funding for the National Institutes of Health, particularly a plan to double cancer research.

Returning again to the issue of scientific integrity, the President announced he has "charged the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) with leading a new effort to ensure that federal policies are based on the best and most unbiased scientific information." To this end, the President issued an Executive Order on March 9 and OSTP has established a website http://blog.ostp.gov for people to comment on the order and its proposed implementation.

In ticking off other challenges in the intersection of science and public policy, the President mentioned "harnessing the historic convergence between the life sciences and physical sciences" that is transforming biomedicine. He also touched on environmental science, discussing strengthening our weather forecasting, earth observation systems, managing our nation's land, water, and forests, and protecting our coastal zones and ocean fisheries. He made a commitment to international cooperation, particularly on energy and the environment.

The President announced "a renewed commitment to education in mathematics and science." His proposed FY 2010 budget proposes tripling the number of NSF graduate fellowships and he once again vowed that "in the next decade – by 2020 – America will once again have the highest proportion of college graduates in the world." At the K-12 level, he challenged states "to dramatically improve achievement in math and science by raising standards, modernizing science labs, upgrading curriculum, and forging partnerships to improve the use of science and technology in our classrooms." In addition, states must "enhance teacher preparation and training" and "attract new and qualified math and science teachers to better engage students and reinvigorate these subjects in our schools."

He also announced the appointment of the President's Council of Advisers on Science and Technology (PCAST) "to engage the scientific community directly in the work of public policy." The PCAST will be led by Harold Varmus, former NIH director, Eric Lander, one of the principal leaders of the Human Genome Project; and John Holdren, the President's science adviser and head of OSTP. (For a full list see below.)

The President concluded by proclaiming that "scientific discovery takes far more than the occasional flash of brilliance – as important as that can be. Usually, it takes time, hard work, patience; it takes training; often it requires the support of a nation…But it holds a promise like no other area of human endeavor."

The full text of the President's address is available at: http://www.whitehouse.gov/the_press_office/Remarks-by-the-President-at-the-National-Academy-of-Sciences-Annual-Meeting/

SCIENCE ADVISER LAYS OUT OBAMA AGENDA IN S&T; HOUSE PANEL CHAIR NOTES LATEST LEGISLATION

Following up on President Obama's speech to the NAS Presidential Science Adviser John Holdren addressed the AAAS Forum on Science and Technology (S&T) Policy on April 30. Holdren, who also directs the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) and co-chairs the President's Council of Advisers on Science and Technology,

repeated the President's key initiatives in the S&T arena. They are: increase research and development to three percent of GDP; improve STEM education, and an enhance research for clean energy and a cleaner climate.

John Holdren

Holdren suggested that the applications for Obama's S&T policy are: 1) use investment in research and development to foster economic recovery and growth; 2) provide better health care at lower costs; 3) pass an energy policy that lowers emissions, creates green jobs, and improves the climate; 4) implement an environmental policy that protects endangered species, water, oceans, and the land; and 5) enhance national and homeland security.

The foundations for S&T success, according to Holdren, are: 1) building institutional capacity for fundamental research; 2) improving STEM education from pre-school to graduate school and through the lifetime; 3) advancing information and communications' technologies; 4) moving forward to increase U.S. capability in space; and 5) supporting guidelines and processes to restore integrity to science.

Responding to a question about the former science adviser John Marburger's initiative on science and science policy, Holdren commented that his predecessor was right. Science policy should be about more than budgets and that developing metrics for measuring success is important. He noted the activities in this area at the National Science Foundation and OSTP.

Reflecting on his role, Holdren cited Harvey Brooks' distinction between S&T for policy and policy for S&T. In the former, the President's science adviser provides independent advice for the implementation of Administration policies. In the latter, the science adviser and, in his role of director of OSTP, coordinates the S&T operations of the government. In neither role does the adviser become the mouthpiece of the science community.

Gordon Touts Legislative Achievements of House Science Panel

Following Holdren's address, House Science and Technology Committee Chairman Rep. Bart Gordon (D-TN) made brief remarks. He discussed the many bills, most importantly the America COMPETES Act, that he and his committee have enacted and its emphasis on science and technology education. These also include the renewal of the National Nanotechnology Initiative and its new emphasis on the health consequences of this new technology.

He also referred to three bills the Committee cleared on April 29 to improve networking and information technology (H.R. 2020), international science and technology cooperation (H.R. 1736), and science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education (H.R. 1709). Each of these bills, Gordon noted provides better coordination among a myriad of government programs (see Update, April 6, 2009).

In a reference to the Committee's efforts in national security policy, Gordon mentioned that the Department of Defense was interested in migration patterns as a national security concern.

CONGRESSMAN BAIRD DISCUSSES IMPORTANCE OF THE SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES TO THE SCIENCE POLICY AGENDA

Congressman Brian Baird

In a week when the President, the President's Science Adviser, and the Chairman of the House Science and Technology (S&T) Committee talked about American science and technology without mentioning the social and behavioral sciences, Rep. Brian Baird (D-WA) publicly brought them back onto the science policy stage.

Speaking at the AAAS Forum on Science and Technology Policy on May 1, Baird, who now chairs the S&T Committee's Energy and Environment Subcommittee, made it quite clear that the role of the social and behavioral sciences "is essential" to the energy, climate change, health and other agendas of the Obama Administration.

Picking up from his introduction by COSSA Executive Director Howard Silver, Baird recounted his role in the previous Congress as Chairman of the Research and Science Education Subcommittee, where he held three hearings on the contributions of the behavioral and social sciences to energy, national security, and health policy (see Update, October 8, 2007, May 5, 2008 and September 22, 2008). What he concluded from the hearing on energy was that the single most important change to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels is behavioral change. If such change took place, Baird asserted we could reduce energy use by 20 percent in 20 weeks.

From the hearing on national security, held with the House Armed Services Committee, Baird cited the "critical information" provided by social scientists embedded with American troops in Afghanistan and Iraq in "human terrain" teams that have helped save American as well Afghani and Iraqi lives.

Taking great delight in his role in thwarting attempts to defund already awarded NSF grants (see Update, May 19, 2007), Baird noted that simply judging research grants by title will get you into trouble, since the research from one of the challenged grants proved extraordinarily useful to the Defense Department in the war in Iraq. He also told of certain members who still do not believe the threat of climate change, but as many others have noted the four sweetest words to a politician are "we have the votes," and there is a consensus in Congress that something has to be done, even if the rationale is energy independence.

Baird welcomed the "new, refreshing Administration" and the renewed emphasis on science, but noted that with a $1.7 trillion deficit, it is difficult to explain to his constituency in a district with 15 percent unemployment, the value of spending taxpayer funds on research.

His other priorities in S&T, Baird told the breakfast meeting, remain international science diplomacy, including re-establishing science attaches in American embassies overseas, science education, broadening participation in science by women and minorities, and restoring the health of the oceans, which are plagued by acidification from carbon dioxide emissions.

CONCERNS ABOUT THE 2010 CENSUS RAISED AT COMMERCE SECRETARY'S APPEARANCES BEFORE SPENDING PANELS

Secretary Gary Locke

Appearing on April 23 before the Senate Commerce, Justice, Science (CJS) Appropriations Subcommittee, chaired by Sen. Barbara Mikulski (D-MD), new Commerce Secretary Gary Locke said his department now has "the resources necessary to complete the 2010 Census effectively and on time, counting everyone once, only once, and in the right place." Five days later he reiterated this to the House CJS Appropriations Subcommittee, chaired by Rep. Alan Mollohan (D-WV).

Although Locke admitted that the 2010 count could cost as much as $15 billion, the members of both Subcommittees appeared less interested in funding, than in the management problems and operational difficulties of pulling off what is always described as "the largest peacetime operation" carried out by the U.S. government.

As Ranking Republican on the Senate panel Sen. Richard Shelby (R-AL) noted, "time is running out and there's great uncertainty" for carrying out the Census. Mollohan asserted that "the 2010 Decennial has been beset by lack of management and oversight, a lack of acquisitions expertise and the lack of transparency by an agency whose culture is perceived as so impenetrable as to be self-defeating." He added that the agency "just did an absolutely miserable job with the Census up to this time." Mikulski suggested, "We are really cranky" about the "techno-boondoggle that's occurred, the tremendous loss of money."

Locke announced that $4.3 billion in additional funding will be available for the decennial in the FY 2010 budget. This would bring the FY 2010 request to approximately $7 billion for the count. In addition, the agency has $1 billion to spend from the Recovery Act. The Secretary assured the panels that these funds would allow the Bureau to hire nearly 1.5 million temporary workers to carry out the Census. Those workers will need to undergo background and fingerprint checks, and Mikulski expressed concerns whether the FBI could process so many checks in a timely way.

The Secretary also pronounced, with regard to the nomination of Robert Groves that "we have chosen a Census Director who is a trained professional, highly respected in the academic field, who has worked in the Census Bureau before." (For more on Groves' background see Update April 6, 2009). The Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, chaired by Sen. Joe Lieberman (I-CT), has tentatively scheduled a hearing on Groves' nomination for May 12.

Replying to Shelby and Rep. Frank Wolf (R-VA), Ranking Republican of the House panel, Locke assured everyone "that we have absolutely no intention, no plans whatsoever, to use any type of statistical sampling in the reapportionment issues or the apportionment of Congress. We will follow the Supreme Court ruling that statistical sampling is not allowed and that we will have a physical hard count of people."

He also assured the Congress that the Bureau is dealing with the management issues by "having weekly reports focusing on high risk areas with milestones and metrics." In addition, given the fiasco with the handheld computers (see Update April 7 and 21, 2008), Locke told the Subcommittees "that the Bureau now has a chief testing officer to oversee the testing efforts" of new programs and activities that have not yet been done before. The Bureau is now using the handhelds to verify addresses and "they are working well," according to the Secretary.

Reps. Mike Honda (D-CA) and Jose Serrano (D-NY) focused their remarks and questions for the Secretary on hard-to-count populations. Honda wondered with people losing their homes in the recession how the Bureau will get "accurate information on communities." He also asked about questionnaires in other languages besides English and Spanish.

Locke responded that "to be successful [the Census will] have to rely on communities of color and community-based organizations, from churches to nonprofit organizations, to get the word out." He noted that much of the advertising budget calls for placements in nontraditional media, such as community-based newspapers and Spanish-language radio. He also suggested that the questionnaires should go out in other languages, such as Vietnamese to certain parts of Houston, "where we know that there is a high concentration of people from Southeast Asia."

Serrano raised the issue of counting non-citizens especially in the wake of the National Coalition of Latino Clergy and Christian Leaders calling for a boycott of the decennial to gain leverage on the issue of immigration reform. Locke said he would meet with the leaders of the boycott call and emphasize to them the importance of getting immigrants counted in order to ensure that "every community receive its fair share of Federal dollars." The $300 billion a year that the Federal government distributes for education, human services, and other programs is based on formulas where population count is the key ingredient. "It's in their own economic self-interest and the future aspirations of minority communities…to be engaged in this Census and to be fully counted," Locke concluded.

Wolf and Rep. John Culberson (R-TX) worried about White House political interference in the count. Locke asserted that "I intend to supervise the Census." He noted that the White House as well as members of Congress always makes suggestions for what they believe will improve the decennial, but that he expects no "interference."

The 2010 Census Advisory Committee, of which COSSA is a member, meets on May 7 and 8 and will provide more updates on how well the 2010 Census is coming along.

THE PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL OF ADVISERS ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (PCAST)

As noted in the earlier story, in conjunction with his speech to the NAS, President Obama announced his appointments to the President's Council of Advisers on Science and Technology (PCAST). The 20 members (there may be one or two more) and their bios as provided by the White House are the following:

Rosina Bierbaum, a widely-recognized expert in climate-change science and ecology, is Dean of the School of Natural Resources and Environment at the University of Michigan. Her PhD is in evolutionary biology and ecology. She served as Associate Director for Environment in OSTP in the Clinton Administration, as well as Acting Director of OSTP in 2000-2001. She is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Christine Cassel is President and CEO of the American Board of Internal Medicine and previously served as Dean of the School of Medicine and Vice President for Medical Affairs at Oregon Health & Science University. A member of the Institute of Medicine, she is a leading expert in geriatric medicine and quality of care.

Christopher Chyba is Professor of Astrophysical Sciences and International Affairs at Princeton University and a member of the Committee on International Security and Arms Control of the National Academy of Sciences. His scientific work focuses on solar system exploration and his security-related research emphasizes nuclear and biological weapons policy, proliferation, and terrorism. He served on the White House staff from 1993 to 1995 at the National Security Council and the Office of Science and Technology Policy and was awarded a MacArthur Prize Fellowship (2001) for his work in both planetary science and international security.

S. James Gates Jr. is the John S. Toll Professor of Physics and Director of the Center for String and Particle Theory at the University of Maryland, College Park. He is the first African American to hold an endowed chair in physics at a major research university. He has served as a consultant to the National Science Foundation, the U.S. Departments of

Energy and Defense, and the Educational Testing Service and held appointments at MIT, Harvard, California Institute of Technology and Howard University.

John Holdren is serving as co-chair of PCAST in addition to his duties as Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy in the Executive Office of the President and Assistant to the President for Science and Technology. Prior to this appointment, Holdren was a Professor of Environmental Policy and Director of the Program on Science, Technology, and Public Policy at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government. He also served concurrently as Professor of Environmental Science and Policy in Harvard's Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences and as Director of the independent, nonprofit Woods Hole Research Center. He is a member of the National Academy of Sciences, the National Academy of Engineering, and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, as well as a former President of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and recipient of the MacArthur Foundation Prize Fellowship.

Shirley Ann Jackson is the President of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and former Chair of the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission (1995-1999). She is the University Vice Chairman of the U.S. Council on Competitiveness, a member of the National Academy of Engineering, fellow of the Academy of Arts and Sciences, and past President of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Jackson was the first African American woman to earn a doctorate from MIT and chairs the New York Stock Exchange Regulation Board.

Eric Lander is serving as a co-chair of PCAST. He is the Director of the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard and Professor of Biology at MIT, Professor of Systems Biology at Harvard Medical School and member of the Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research. He was one of the principal leaders of the Human Genome Project, recipient of the MacArthur Foundation Prize Fellowship and is a member of both the National Academy of Sciences and Institute of Medicine.

Richard Levin has served as President of Yale University since 1993 and is a distinguished economist with interests in industrial organization, the patent system, and the competitiveness of American manufacturing industries, including industrial research and development, intellectual property, and productivity. He is a leader in U.S.-China cooperation, in research and education, and is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Chad Mirkin is Professor of Materials Science and Engineering, Chemistry, and Medicine at Northwestern University, as well as Director of Northwestern's International Institute of Nanotechnology. He is a leading expert on nanotechnology, including nano-scale manufacturing and applications to medicine. Awarded the Feynman Prize in Nanotechnology in 2002, he is one of the top-cited researchers in nano-medicine, as well as one of the most widely cited chemists.

Mario Molina is a Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry at the University of California, San Diego and the Center for Atmospheric Sciences at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, as well as Director of the Mario Molina Center for Energy and Environment in Mexico City. He received the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1995 for his role in elucidating the threat to the Earth's ozone layer of chlorofluorocarbon gases. The only Mexican-born Nobel laureate in science, he served on PCAST for both Clinton terms. He is a member of both the National Academy of Sciences and the Institute of Medicine.

Ernest J. Moniz is a Professor of Physics and Engineering Systems, Director of the Energy Initiative, and Director of the Laboratory for Energy and the Environment at MIT. His research centers on energy technology and policy, including the future of nuclear power, coal, natural gas, and solar energy in a low-carbon world. He served as Under Secretary of the Department of Energy (1997-2001) and Associate Director for Science in the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (1995-1997).

Craig Mundie is Chief Research and Strategy Officer at Microsoft Corporation. He has 39 years of experience in the computer industry, beginning as a developer of operating systems. Mundie co-founded and served as CEO of Alliant Computer Systems.

William Press is Professor of Computer Sciences at the University of Texas at Austin, has wide-ranging expertise in computer science, astrophysics, and international security. A member of the National Academy of Sciences, he previously served as Deputy Laboratory Director for Science and Technology at the Los Alamos National Laboratory from 1998 to 2004. He is a Professor of Astronomy and Physics at Harvard University and a former member of the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics (1982-1998).

Maxine Savitz is retired general manager of Technology Partnerships at Honeywell, Inc and has more than 30 years of experience managing research, development and implementation programs for the public and private sectors, including in the aerospace, transportation, and industrial sectors. From 1979 to 1983 she served as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Conservation in the US Department of Energy. She currently serves as vice-president of the National Academy of Engineering.

Barbara Schaal is Professor of Biology at Washington University in St Louis. She is a renowned plant geneticist who has used molecular genetics to understand the evolution and ecology of plants, ranging from the US Midwest to the tropics. Schaal serves as Vice President of the National Academy of Sciences, the first woman ever elected to that role.

Eric Schmidt is Chairman and CEO of Google Inc. and a member of the Board of Directors of Apple Inc. Before joining Google, Schmidt served as Chief Technology Officer for Sun Microsystems and later as CEO of Novell Inc.

Daniel Schrag is the Sturgis Hooper Professor of Geology in the Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences at Harvard University and Professor of Environmental Science and Engineering in the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences. He is also Director of the Harvard University-wide Center for Environment. He was trained as a marine geochemist and has employed a variety of methods to study the carbon cycle and climate over a wide range of Earth's history. Awarded a MacArthur Prize Fellowship in 2000, he has recently been working on technological approaches to mitigating future climate change.

David E. Shaw is the chief scientist of D. E. Shaw Research, LLC, where he leads an interdisciplinary research group in the field of computational biochemistry. He is the founder of D. E. Shaw & Co., a hedge fund company. Shaw is a former member of PCAST under President Clinton and a member of the executive committee of the Council on Competitiveness, where he co-chairs the steering committee for the Council's federally funded High-Performance Computing Initiative. He is a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and serves on the Computer Science and Telecommunications Board of the National Academies.

Harold Varmus is the President and CEO of Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center and co-chair of PCAST. Varmus served as the Director of the National Institutes of Health from 1993 to 1999 and in 1989 was the co-recipient of the Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine for his pioneering studies of the genetic basis of cancer. He is a member of the National Academy of Sciences and Institute of Medicine and recipient of the National Medal of Science.

Ahmed Zewail is Professor of Chemistry and Physics at Caltech and Director of the Physical Biology Center. Zewail was awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1999 for his pioneering work that allowed observation of exceedingly rapid molecular transformations. He is an Egyptian-American, widely respected not only for his science but also for his efforts in the Middle East as a voice of reason. Dr. Zewail is a member of the National Academy of Sciences, and postage stamps have been issued to honor his contributions to science and humanity.

MORE OBAMA APPOINTMENTS: BLANK TO COMMERCE, SHAH TO USDA; SPRIGGS TO LABOR

Rebecca Blank

President Obama continued to fill out his Administration. On April 30, the Senate confirmed Kathleen Sebelius at Secretary of Health and Human Services. Obama has nominated Rebecca Blank, Robert Kerr Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institution, to become the Undersecretary for Economic Affairs at the Department of Commerce. This will make her head of the Economics and Statistics Administration which oversees the Census Bureau and the Bureau of Economic Analysis.

Prior to her coming to Brookings, Blank was Dean of the Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy at the University of Michigan and co-director of the National Poverty Center. She served as a Member of the President's Council of Economic Advisers from 1997-1999. She has been Professor of Economics at Northwestern University and Director of the Northwestern University/University of Chicago Joint Center for Poverty Research. She recently returned to Northwestern to give the Distinguished Public Policy lecture at the 40th Anniversary celebration of the Institute for Poverty Research (see other story).

Blank's research has focused on the interactions between the macroeconomy, government policy, and the behavior and well-being of American families. Her 1997 book, *It Takes A Nation: A New Agenda for Fighting Poverty*, won the Richard A. Lester Prize for the Outstanding Book in Labor Economics and Industrial Relations. Her more recent work

includes the books: *The New World of Welfare* (co-edited with Ron Haskins), *Is the Market Moral?* (co-authored with William McGurn), *Working and Poor* (co-edited with Sheldon Danziger and Robert Schoeni), and *Insufficient Funds: Savings, Assets, Credit, and Banking among Low-Income Families* (co-edited with Michael Barr).

She is a faculty affiliate of the National Bureau of Economic Research and a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Blank currently serves on the Board of Directors of MDRC, the Economic Policy Institute, and the Urban Institute. She is a past president of the Association of Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM) and a spoke at the COSSA Annual Meeting in 1998. She has been a witness before Congress many times, and as a member of the National Academy of Sciences' panel that produced the report *Measuring Poverty: A New Approach*, she often discusses the need to revise the way U.S. measures poverty (see Update, July 28, 2008). Blank has a Ph.D. in economics from MIT.

Rajiv Shah to Head Research, Education, and Economics at USDA

The President has also nominated Rajiv Shah to become the Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics, at the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). Shah will be responsible for implementing the research provisions of the 2008 Farm Bill as well as overseeing the Economic Research Service and the National Agricultural Statistical Service.

Shah is currently the Director of Agricultural Development in the Global Development Program for the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation where he manages the Foundation's Agricultural Development program – including grant-making portfolios in science and technology, farmer productivity, market access, and policy and statistics.

Shah joined the Foundation in 2001 and previously served as the Foundation's Director of Strategic Opportunities and Deputy Director of Policy and Finance for Global Health. In these roles, he helped develop and launch the Foundation's Global Development Program and the International Finance Facility for Immunization. Prior to joining the Foundation, he was the health care policy advisor on the Gore 2000 presidential campaign and a member of Governor Ed Rendell's transition committee on health. Shah is the co-founder of Health Systems Analytics and Project IMPACT for South Asian Americans. In addition, he has served as a policy aide in the British Parliament and worked at the World Health Organization. Currently, Shah serves on the boards of the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa, the Seattle Public Library, and the Seattle Community College District.

Shah earned his M.D. from the University of Pennsylvania Medical School and M.S. in health economics at the Wharton School of Business. He is a graduate of the University of Michigan and the London School of Economics and has published articles on health policy and global development. In 2007, he was named a Young Global Leader by the World Economic Forum.

Howard University's Economics Chairman to head Policy at DOL

William E. Spriggs

William E. Spriggs, Professor and Chair of the Department of Economics at Howard University, has been nominated as the Assistant Secretary for Policy at the Department of Labor (DOL). Spriggs had served on the DOL Agency Review Team for Preisdent Obama's transition.

Since July 2006, he has served as Chair of the Independent Health Care Trust for UAW Retirees of Ford Motor Company, and is on the board of the Retiree Health Administration Corporation which administers the health care trusts for UAW retirees of Ford and General Motors. Spriggs is also a Senior Fellow with the Community Service Society of New York, where he helps with Working for Change, a public policy forum held on Capitol Hill on the problems of young low-income workers and their families.

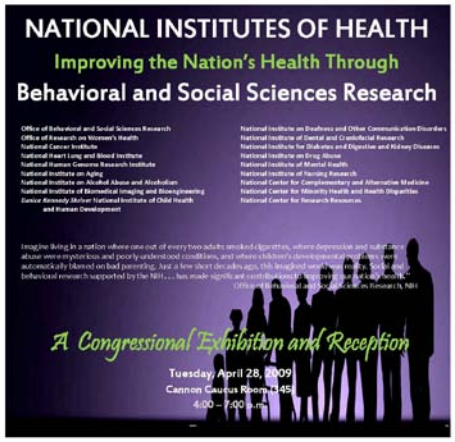
Spriggs serves as Vice-Chair of the Board of the Congressional Black Caucus Political Education and Leadership Institute and as a Senior Fellow of the Economic Policy Institute. He has been a Senior Vice President of the National Urban League. From 1993 to 1994, he led the staff of the National Commission for Employment Policy. He was a senior economist for the Joint Economic Committee of the Congress as well as a Senior Advisor and Economist at the Economics and Statistics Administration at the Department of Commerce.

To commemorate the 40th Anniversary of the Assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Spriggs co-authored, with Steven Pitts, *Beyond the Mountaintop: King's Prescription for Poverty*. In 2008 he served on the United Food and Commercial Workers' (UCFW) Union National Commission on Immigrations and Customs Enforcement Misconduct and

Violations of 4th Amendment Rights, chaired by UFCW president Joe Hansen which included former Iowa governor Tom Vilsack, now Secretary of Agriculture.

Spriggs has won Chairman's Award of the Congressional Black Caucus, the National Economics Association Dissertation Award, and was a recipient of a National Science Foundation Minority Graduate Fellowship. He has a B.A. from Williams College and an M.A. and Ph.D. in economics from the University of Wisconsin.

COSSA COALITION ORGANIZES NIH BEHAVIORAL AND SOCIAL SCIENCE POSTER SESSION ON CAPITOL HILL



On April 28, 19 institutes and centers of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) showcased NIH-supported social and behavioral science research on Capitol Hill. The exhibition highlighted social and behavioral science research and its contributions to improving our nation's health. The event was organized by the COSSA-based coalition, the Coalition for the Advancement of Health Through Behavioral and Social Sciences Research (CAHT-BSSR) and sponsored by Senators Tom Harkin (D-IA) and Arlen Specter (D-PA) and Representatives Lois Capps (D-CA) and Brian Bilbray (R-CA). Thirty organizations sponsored the exhibition, including the American Educational Research Association, American Psychological Association, American Sociological Association, National Communication Association, Midwest Political Science Association, Institute for the Advancement of Social Work Research, Population Association of America, Society for Research in Child Development, Council on Social Work Education and the Society for Behavioral Medicine. More than 200 people attended the event including Representatives Tim Murphy (R-PA) and David Price (D-NC), National Institute of Mental Health director Tom Insel and Acting Director for the National Human Genome Research Institute Alan Guttmacher.

Rep. Tim Murphy (R-PA) and Tom Insel (NIMH)

The research highlighted at the Exhibition addressed one or more of the following themes: 1) Identification of the causes of diseases and disability; 2) Interventions to promote health and prevent illness and disease; 3) Treatments for illness and disability; 4) Causes of, and solutions for, health disparities; 5) New technologies to improve health.

Rep. David Price (D-NC) and Jeffrey Greeson (Duke Univ.)

How can we change the way adolescents view smoking? Why do our social networks influence how much we weigh? How do environments alter the expression of genes? How can we design neighborhoods that will make people healthier? Can behavioral interventions reduce health care costs? With NIH support, behavioral and social science research is helping lead the way towards a healthier nation by addressing these and other questions, Christine Bachrach, Acting Director of the NIH Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research (OBSSR) noted in the welcome of the Exhibition's program.

Bachrach also emphasized that "behavioral research is an integral part of the NIH Mission: *NIH is the steward of medical and behavioral research for the Nation. Its mission is science in pursuit of fundamental knowledge about the nature and behavior of living systems and the application of that knowledge to extend healthy life and reduce the burdens of illness and disability*. An astounding 47 percent of all deaths have a preventable behavioral cause, including tobacco, poor diet and physical inactivity and sexual behaviors. NIH-funded behavioral and social scientists are working to improve the health of our nation by studying how biology, behavior and the social and physical environments dynamically interact and impact our health. Their research contributes to reducing tobacco use and smoking-related diseases, developing effective behavioral treatments for mental health disorders, preventing type II diabetes, and much more." Poster topics included:

Healthier Lives Through Behavioral and Social Science
Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research

Improving America's Health: What is NIH Doing?
Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research

The Burden of Cancer in the United States: Understanding the Impact of Knowledge, Behavior, and Legislation
National Cancer Institute

Behavioral Research in Science Education Partnership Site
National Center for Research Resources

Alan Guttmacher (NHGRI), Christine Bachrach (OBSSR)

Identifying Causes and Solutions for Health Disparities
National Center for Minority Health and Health Disparities

Personalized Genomics: Use of Genetic Testing Among Families Affected by Hereditary Diseases and Individualized Susceptibility Testing for Common Diseases
National Human Genome Research Institute

Behavioral Research at the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute: Advancing the Science of Behavior to Promote Public Health -- National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute

Research on Medicare
National Institute on Aging

The Interface of Behavioral Research and Alcohol-Related Problems
National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism

Technology Development that Target Underserved Populations
National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering

Understanding the Causes of Health: NICHD Behavioral and Social Science Research Through the Lifespan
Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development

Helping Individuals with Communication Disorders through Behavioral Research
National Institute for Deafness and Communication Disorders

Behavioral Research at NIDCR: Helping Improve the Nation's Oral and Craniofacial Health
National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research

The Diabetes Prevention Program
National Institute for Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases

Transforming the Understanding and Treatment of Mental Illness through Research
National Institute of Mental Health

Behavioral and Social Sciences Research at the National Institute of Nursing Research: Making a Difference in People's Lives
National Institute of Nursing Research

Highlights of Interdisciplinary Research in Behavioral and Social Sciences in SCOR and BIRCWH Programs
Office of Research on Women's Health

Copies of the posters will be posted on the websites of the NIH Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research (http://obssr.od.nih.gov/index.aspx) and the Coalition for the Advancement of Health Through Behavioral and Social Sciences Research (http://www.cossa.org/caht-bssr/caht-bssr.shtml).

CONGRESS CLEARS BUDGET RESOLUTION; OBAMA FY 2010 DETAILS SOON

On April 29th, the House and Senate both enacted the conference version of the FY 2010 Budget Resolution. This bill, H.Con.Res 85, which does not require presidential action, sets the parameters for spending and taxing decisions by the congressional appropriations and tax committees.

The Resolution provides FY 2010 total discretionary spending of $1.086 trillion, $10 billion below the President's request. Of this total, $556.1 billion will go for regular defense discretionary spending in FY 2010 and $529.8 billion is

for non-defense discretionary spending. The Appropriations Committee will now allocate these funds, through a process known as 302(b), to its 12 subcommittees. It is within these Subcommittees that the initial major spending decisions for programs and agencies will be made. These decisions are always subject to amendments at full Committee, on the floor of the House and Senate, and in conference committees.

Although Congress has long had difficulty finishing the complete funding process by the start of fiscal years on October 1, new Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Sen. Daniel Inouye (D-HI) has vowed to complete all the bills on time this year.

The starting point for many of these spending decisions is the President's request for agency and program funding. Usually these details arrive in the President's budget released on the first Monday in February. However, a new Administration is cut some slack and President Obama, who released a broad version of the FY 2010 budget in February, is expected to present his detailed budget on May 7.

In the meantime, the Appropriations Subcommittees continue to question the heads of agencies about their programs and spending priorities. With the lack of a detailed budget, the panels usually take a broad, overview perspective, often highlighting difficulties with programs as part of their oversight role (See other story about Commerce Secretary Gary Locke's appearances before the Commerce, Justice, Science spending panels).

NIH SCIENTIFIC MANAGEMENT REVIEW BOARD HOLDS INAUGURAL MEETING; MERGER OF NIDA AND NIAAA DISCUSSED

On April 27 and 28 the congressionally-mandated National Institutes of Health (NIH) Scientific Management Review Board (SMRB) held its inaugural meeting. Acting NIH Director Raynard Kington welcomed the Board and gave a brief overview of its purpose and its charge. The SMRB was codified as part of the NIH Reform Act of 2006, which directed the NIH to create such a board to examine the NIH's organizational structure and balance along with providing recommendations for enhancing NIH's mission through greater agency flexibility, allowing it to be more responsive. SMRB is chaired by Norman R. Augustine, former chairman of the executive committee of Lockheed Martin Corporation and the key figure behind the *Rising Above the Gathering Storm* report.

The Board is charged with providing advice to appropriate HHS and NIH officials regarding the use of organizational authorities established under the NIH Reform Act of 2006, not less than once each seven years. Specifically, the Board shall (1) determine whether and to what extent the organization authorities should be used; and (2) issue a report providing the recommendations of the Board regarding the use of the authorities and the reasons underlying the recommendations. Outlining the goals of the meeting, Augustine expressed his hope to have a strong consensus on any recommendation from the Board, allowing for stronger impact, but added that he will welcome minority opinions and include them (http://smrb.od.nih.gov/charter.asp).

NIH provided broad presentations for SMRB members, including an overview of the NIH mission, structure, budget and central services, on the meeting's first day. National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) director Anthony Fauci used his institute as a model to discuss "Scientific Priorities and Emerging Public Health Issues and the NIH: A View from NIAID." Fauci highlighted the evolution of things that have shaped both the resources and the institute and the NIH. The paradigm of NIH, according to Fauci, is a balance between the scientific opportunity and the public health needs. He pointed out the evolving public health challenges over the last decade have been things that shaped the agency, within an institute, center, or in a division. These include: a shift from acute to chronic conditions, an aging population, health disparities, emerging and reemerging infectious diseases and emerging non-communicable diseases such as obesity.

He also provided a menu of some of the examples of key issues that have shaped individual ICs: **Digestive Diseases and Kidney Diseases** – obesity epidemic; **Heart, Lung and Blood** – discovery of modifiable risk factors for heart disease; **Cancer** – genomics to understand molecular basis of cancer; **Arthritis and Muscoskeletal** – arthritis in an aging population; **Aging** – Alzheimer's disease; **Nursing** – increases in chronic diseases and need for improved symptom management; **Child Health and Human Development** –understanding early developmental process; **Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering** – convergence between engineering and life sciences; **Fogarty** – global health; **Dental and Craniofacial** -- the relationship of oral health to overall health and well-being; **Center for Research Resources** – clinical and translational sciences award program to move research results rapidly from discovery to practice; **Neurological Diseases and Stroke** – identification of diseases genes and their role in pathology; **Drug Abuse** – drug abuse treatment in criminal justice settings to improve public health safety.

Fauci also noted the growth of the NIH from six institutes in 1948 to the current 27 institutes and centers in 2009. In 1980 NIAID was the sixth largest institute and it was thought by some that institute had taken care of infectious diseases. At the time, there was not consideration given to global health, he explained. Since 1980, according to Fauci, the transforming issues that have shaped the NIAID include HIV/AIDS, global health, biodefense, and other emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases and issues. In addition, he noted that technological advances and other disciplines have also transformed infectious and immunological diseases research including: genomics and other "omics," nanotechnology, computer modeling, imaging, and bioinformatics – all which transcend the institute. Fauci also pointed out that global health research at NIH has expanded rapidly, including not only infectious diseases but also heart disease, obesity, mental health, accidents and injuries, cancer, diabetes, aging, child health, and many other conditions.

Debra Lappin, B&D Consulting, provided the SMRB an overview of the National Research Council Report, *Enhancing the Vitality of the NIH: Organizational Change to Meet New Challenges (*see Update, August 11, 2003*)*. Lappin noted that the report recommendations came in four categories: 1) centralization of administrative functions; 2) organizational structure; 3) enhancing NIH's ability to respond to new challenges; and 4) accountability, administration, and leadership. She observed that the recommendations came at time when there was a strong push by then Secretary of Health and Human Health Tommy Thompson for a "One HHS." In that report, the Committee also recommended that thought be given to consolidation of the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) and the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA). That report also suggested a merger of the National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI) and the National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS), a fact that has not received quite as much consideration by the scientific community.

Evolution of NIAAA and NIDA: Science, Structure, and Function

Lawrence A. Tabak, (National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research and Acting Deputy Director, NIH and a former COSSA Annual Meeting speaker), Nora D. Volkow (Director, NIDA and a former COSSA Annual Meeting speaker), and Kenneth R. Warren (Acting Director, NIAAA) provided the Board with background on the science, structure and function of NIDA and NIAAA.

In his capacity as Acting NIH Deputy Director, Tabak provided an overview of the issue at hand, a brief description of prior frameworks, a description of the science supported by NIAAA and NIDA, and the specific charge to SMRB. The question, Tabak explained, is considering both biological differences and similarities, does the current organization of separating research institutes on drug and alcohol use and abuse and addiction provide optimal infrastructure for support these areas of scientific research. He noted that the reasons for considering this particular change at this moment in time include the enactment of the NIH Reform Act of 2006, the 2003 IOM report with recommendations that such a merger be considered (an option also considered by the Lewin Group in 1988), and the Drug Abuse Education, Prevention, and Treatment Act of 2001 which required the Department of Health and Human Services to request an Institute of Medicine Study to consider whether combining NIDA and NIAAA would strengthen research efforts and increase economic efficiency (the study was never requested).

Tabak also made a few observations on the prior organizational structure of the institutes. The precursor to NIAAA and NIDA were established within the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), but grew into separate entities with the increasing recognition of biological underpinnings for alcohol addiction and drug abuse. The tension between research and services components of both institutes' earlier missions resulted in multiple transfers of these organizations and/or component offices. Today, substance abuse treatment is the purview of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Tabak observed.

The rhetorical question for the Board to consider, Tabak noted, is whether any lessons have been learned as a result of these organizational changes. What organizational structure in NIH best supports scientific inquiry investigating the fundamental pathway and underlying substance use, abuse and addiction and helps develops therapeutic approaches of these substance? The issues to consider include: How can NIH increase the synergy among researchers studying different facets of substance use, abuse and addiction? How can NIH best promote development of treatments for multiple addictions and co-morbidities? How can organizational structure advance research on fundamental pathways underlying substance use and abuse help develop new treatments for addiction and help develop therapeutic applications of these substances? What are the pros and cons of various organizational options?

According to Tabak, the specific charge to the SMRB is: Should the SMRB consider organizational change within NIH to optimize research into alcohol and drug use, abuse, and addiction to better understand fundamental pathways, develop new treatments for addiction, and identify potential therapeutic uses for these substances? If yes, the Board will need to consider the process to inform decision, timeline, and next steps?

APA Addresses the SMRB

American Psychological Association's (APA) Steve Breckler provided the Association's perspective of the proposed merger of NIDA and NIAAA. Breckler explained that the APA fully supports the assertion that any proposed consolidation of NIH's institution should be driven by scientific considerations. Because it was the first meeting of the Board, Breckler urged that any merger discussion be framed with the intent to do no harm. He questioned whether the approach should be to demonstrate how it would be better if ICs were consolidated and if there are administrative costs anticipated. The Board must be vigilant in asking whether the savings will be achieved at the expense of the research, he insisted.

Breckler acknowledged that the insights of the 2003 IOM report are still relevant today. However, in response to its charge, he noted the IOM committee acknowledged that "both the nature of the charge and the one-year period allowed for deliberation put important constraints in the development, character and scope on the recommendations that can be credibly put forward." For that reason, the IOM committee recommended the creation of an investigative committee in anticipation of this very Board created as part of the NIH Reform Act and provided examples of what such a committee might do, he pointed out. Importantly, said Breckler, one of those considerations was gather input and opinion from the NIH institutes and centers directors. While reasonable, it raises for APA an important question. He noted that while nine of the 27 NIH IC directors were represented at the meeting, why should the Board implement such a study at the time when both NIH and NIAAA are without permanent leadership. The Board is charged with making recommendations to the NIH director and the NIH director is clearly meant to have an active role in the deliberations of the SMRB. Might it not be better to wait until these important positions are filled before taking up the question before the Board now, Breckler asked?

The 2003 study also suggested a merger of the NHGRI and NIGMS but acknowledged that the Committee did not have time or opportunity to review the merits of all such proposals to the extent they deserved. Breckler pointed out that the report gave equal weight to the NIDA/NIAAA and the NHGRI/NIGMS mergers. Yet, the latter was given "short shrift" in the presentation the previous day. He also pointed out that there was no discussion why the Board's agenda was favoring one merger over the other.

With respect to the proposed NIDA/NIAAA merger, Breckler explained that the IOM report stated that the broader scientific relationship and the physical location of these two institutes with other neuroscience institutes, especially the NIMH and the National Institute of Neurological and Stroke Diseases should also be considered. APA, said Breckler, found it noteworthy that Augustine added a third impromptu item for consideration – if NIH didn't exist at all how would the Board design an organization to do what NIH does from ground zero. Now might be the time, Breckler argued, to do that, a task that the IOM Committee did not have time to do -- taking a fresh look at the entire network of NIH ICs rather focusing on just one pair of institutes.

According to Breckler, the APA understands why the Board might want to focus on a possible merger of NIAAA/NIDA from a scientific point of view. The two institutes appear to share missions and foci that appear to make them possible candidates for merger. This is, however, where the broader NIH context needs to be taken into consideration, he contended. The value of the NIH model of multiple ICs is that they support diverse approaches to studying interrelated problems. He cited as an example NIDA's support for the bulk of research on tobacco use and smoking. The National Cancer Institute (NCI) also has a substantial tobacco research portfolio. If an addiction institute was to be created out of the merger of NIDA/NIAAA would NCI's tobacco research portfolio move there as well, Breckler surmised. The point, he argued, is that the contemplation of a merger between two ICs is likely to have far broader implications across NIH that needs to be anticipated.

Acknowledging that the Board did not need reminding that the NIH's mission includes support of science pursuing fundamental knowledge about behavior of living systems and the application of that knowledge to extend healthy life and reduce the burden of illness and disability from a public health perspective, Breckler stressed that a study such as the one SMRB is contemplating would require a thorough reexamination of how the current allocation of NIH research resources maps onto the leading causes of morbidity and mortality. Alcohol use and tobacco dependence are among the leading causes of death and disability. The Board would need to anticipate how a study would have broad ramifications for funding to the potential disadvantage of many other ICs across the NIH.

On its surface, the proposed merger may seem straight forward and focused but it may be in fact may "be the tip of the proverbial iceberg," Breckler cautioned and noted that the APA recognizes that the Board is taking their charge seriously. For the Association it is the details, the priority of the research and the leadership that will make a merger successful or have a detrimental effect. Unless the scientific benefits to a merger are real and measurable they may not justify the risks to the budget and support that exists now, he cautioned further. The question APA would ask, said Breckler, "is do you really have enough information to invest your valuable time and resources into the consideration of a selective merger of two institutes to the exclusion of others or should other organizational constructs be the Board's primary focus right now?"

Varmus, Zerhouni Offer Perspectives to SMRB

Former NIH directors Harold Varmus (President, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center and now co-chair of PCAST – see other story) and Elias Zerhouni (Senior Fellow-Global Health, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and Senior Adviser, Johns Hopkins Medicine) also shared their perspectives with the Board.

According to Varmus, what made him unhappy as director of NIH relates to the way it was structured, otherwise he was a "happy camper" and loved leading the agency. He felt that when he was director there were "pretty profound impediments" to doing everything he would have liked to have done as director. He acknowledged that since he left the NIH nine and a half years ago, many things have changed in a good direction. Those changes would have mitigated the complaints he would have made as he was exiting the agency at the end of 1999. A major complaint of Varmus was that he didn't have enough resources and autonomy in the director's office to get things done that he saw could be done. The Office of the Director did not have a staff of scientific experts and had a very small role in planning research programs, he explained. The structure made it "very difficult" to carry out a number of programmatic activities that involved cooperation among ICs. Varmus also expressed dissatisfaction with the number of people who reported to him. He stressed, however, that he is not naïve enough to believe that he could get rid of institutes given that several are the brainchild of various members of Congress, interested public and scientific constituencies.

Varmus also expressed his disappointment with the NIH director's lack of authority to "deny renewal of an appointment" to an institute director, adding that "very few do it successfully over a lifetime." Observing that he sees the IOM report and the passage of the NIH Reform Act as positive steps, he applauded the Common Fund and the fact that "the NIH as been given some ability to reorganize some institutes and centers via SMRB. He also noted that he saw the Office of Portfolio Analysis and Strategic Initiatives (OPASI), the precursor the Division of Program Coordination, Planning and Strategic Initiatives, as a useful development because it is not very easy to get a thoughtful appraisal of how NIH is spending its resources. At the same time, he added, there are many reasons why there will never be and should never be a precise correlation between disease burden and funding of research. He believes that OPASI offers the opportunity for the NIH director to use experts to evaluate the portfolio in a way that could lead to significant change. He lamented, however, that it was very difficult to shift funds between ICs, but much less so within an IC. He spoke of "clustering" or having a coalition of ICs with similar topical areas, an idea that he has put forth before.

With regards to the merger of NIAAA and NIDA, Varmus noted that he "personally does not see anything wrong with doing that, making small steps in the direction of fusion is useful." In addition, he encouraged the SMRB to try to find "some way to have the appropriations process deliver funding to a cluster" of institutes rather than to the individual ICs." He acknowledged that he didn't know if it would appeal to the appropriators but was discussed by the IOM. Other issues addressed by Varmus included his view of an "idealized NIH" was the need to address the special status of some ICs, with the most obvious being NCI with the presidential appointment of its director and the institute's ability to offer up a "by-pass" budget, thus going around the NIH director. He expressed his view that NCI needed to "become the institute with the largest budget."

Varmus concluded his remarks by noting that the NIH has challenges at the moment. There are other areas of biomedical science that are clearly going to require growth at a time when the NIH's base budget is not showing much increase. We hope that with time that will improve, "the president clearly has enthusiasm for supporting medical research but there are also fiscal realities. The rate of growth may not be commensurate with what is required," Varmus stated. He noted that there are some new topics on the table – comparative effectiveness research and an increase interest in global health, which has an important component when thinking about foreign policy. Additionally, there are new kinds of interdisciplinary research which extends NIH's role, said the former NIH director.

Zerhouni shared his "Perspectives on Science and Structure of NIH" with the Board on day two. Acknowledging that he is pleased that the Board was formed, according to Zerhouni, from his point of view the most important structure for NIH is a permanent structure that over time would learn enough and be continuous enough to make recommendations made sense in terms of their ability to be implemented and advance science. He thought it was an instrument that was missing and something that a federal agency of NIH's magnitude needed to have instead of having to rely on the series of ad hoc reports, the latest one the 2003 IOM report, which does not allow the accumulation of knowledge of how NIH functions and how it best functions.

Zerhouni shared several points that he hopes will guide the operation and thinking of the Board. Any change proposed by the Board "has to be fundamentally steeped in science" with an understanding of where the science is, what the science is, and how it is changing, said Zerhouni. "If you do not track the science then you are basically making arrangements that are artificial in nature and are probably not sustainable over time," he informed the group. The

fundamental value of NIH is to advance science and its application for the benefit of people. Often what is done is looking at the benefits for those who benefit from the resources and the funds and the different schools of thoughts and different disciplines, instead of going back to primary mission which is how is the science evolving, where do we need to functionally arrange the forces of NIH to achieve that mission. He called it "a subtle point which sounds like an 'of course' statement." This Board is where, in practice that needs to be done objectively and done over years.

He suggested, that no matter what is proposed, that the Board put it through a filter of what is the science today, why is it that you want to change anything, and how does it serve the science better? Currently there is no mechanism, according to Zerhouni, that takes into account the changes that are occurring. The conduct of science requires access to a scientific milieu that was more diverse than what had been done the previous years. Zerhouni explained that it was impossible for him to see how you make significant advances without being ale to go across disciplines. Many of the breakthroughs tended to happen at the interface of disciplines. The system was designed in such a way that it didn't recognize the landscape of the environment.

The obvious complexity of biology that had emerged, a more detailed understanding and yet, much more incomplete understanding of biological systems compared to what we thought we knew in the 1970s and 1980s, according to Zerhouni, led him to believe that instead of massive structural change as proposed by many, the "smartest thing to do was to find ways of functionally changing the direction of how the science was conducted, what science was conducted and find ways to engage the 27,000 people who make the NIH work. That is the challenge every board is going to face going forward, if you do not put the science first, Zerhouni cautioned. You have to "win the intellectual" debate which has to be scientific. If you guide your thinking according to this science of science evolves, structures have to follow the science, he insisted. He cited as an example the obstacles he faced as NIH director to make science "truly interdisciplinary." Led by Tabak, Zerhouni noted that they found that the problem was not one of funding but the way the mechanisms were structured in 1945 when there were no informational systems. It was "a decision inherited from bureaucratic limits." It took three years to make the change to allow multiple principal investigators on grants.

He also pointed out the need for the agency to continue its efforts to develop good knowledge management systems, which are more complex today because of the numerous cross-cutting areas of science and diseases and because the evolution of science will cross multiple institutes and centers. Finally, Zerhouni encouraged the SMRB to look at peer review. An "outstanding process," Zerhouni noted the peer review process "has been extremely good at preventing bad science from being funded...Without it, the NIH could not function. The concern is whether it has prevented breakthrough science?" Instead of being dogmatic, the NIH should act like scientists and conduct experiments around it, it is an ability of NIH that needed to be encouraged further, he noted.

Next Steps for the SMRB

It was proposed that the SMRB form a working group on "Deliberating Organizational Change" (DOC) which would provide input to the full Board on:

1. How a national biomedical research enterprise could be organized *de novo* today to optimize scientific advances and address public health change. Augustine added the Board does not want "to overcome 100 years of excellence by changing it." Some of the members of the Board expressed concern about the ability to accomplish the task.
2. How the organizational strategies identified above may need to be adapted in considering the structure of NIH given the agency's substantial evolution and existing organization.
3. Fundamental principles and strategies for contemplating, implementing and evaluating the consequences of changes in the organization of the nation's biomedical research enterprise.

On the issue of whether to consider the merger of NIAAA/NIDA, the Board agreed to take up the issue in concert with the explicit development of criteria that would be used for evaluating the programs. It also agreed to consider whether any changes to the NIIH Clinical Center and/or the NIH Intramural Research Program could further optimize the opportunities available in a central research program at NIH.

The Board will set up three working groups, each with a charter that reflects what has been agreed to by the members. Augustine told SMRB members, as well as the public, that if they have topics that they think that the SMRB should consider to submit them.

The Board also expects to hold a series of "foundation briefings" and hold a series of workgroup teleconferences and roundtables (summer/early August). Potential topics include: **Agency capacity for analysis and evaluation of the scientific enterprise** (NIH portfolio analysis: strategies, mechanisms and processes; and Outcomes analysis: conceptual framework, mechanisms and metrics for assessing short and long-term outcomes of NIH-supported

research), **Fostering Interdisciplinary Science** (capacity of current paradigm for peer review and funding mechanism to foster interdisciplinary science; criteria and processes for making decisions regarding the Common Fund; and Other mechanisms that ICs use to coordinate and collaborate on scientific opportunities and public health needs that transcends the mission of any one IC); **Development of the Scientific Workforce** (shifting demographics of scientific workforce and any implications for regeneration of scientific leadership in the future**); Legal and Policy framework for SBIR grants; Trans-Federal Coordination and Collaboration** (goals, mechanisms and processes for enhancing the application biomedical science in addressing public health needs).

The next meeting of the full SMRB is scheduled for October/November 2009.

THE CALL FOR COMMON EDUCATION STANDARDS GAINING TRACTION

On Wednesday, April 29, the House Education and Labor Committee held a hearing to examine how states can better prepare students to compete in a global economy by using internationally benchmarked common core standards.

In his opening statement Chairman George Miller (D-CA) stated: "I want this committee, and the Congress, to do whatever we can to support this state-led, bipartisan effort," to establish a common set of core standards. He acknowledged that despite No Child Left Behind (NCLB) the country still faces an achievement gap and that gap isn't just between students, schools, and states, but internationally as well.

"One of the most important things we can do to fulfill the law's promise is to develop internationally-benchmarked standards that will prepare all students for the rigors of a college or a career," said Miller. He called for all students to be taught to rigorous standards that will prepare them for college or work, declaring that the current "patchwork of standards in place today is holding us back, not lifting us up."

Rep. Vern Ehlers (R-MI) also believes the federal government should have an active role in setting education policy and standards. The ranking member of the Subcommittee on Research and Science Education said that we need to establish voluntary standards for math and science, so that they are taught in the right sequence and the same things are learned in each grade regardless of what state you live in.

However, not all the members of the committee believe the best way to achieve higher standards is to increase federal involvement. Ranking Member Howard McKeon (R-CA) asserted that rather than the federal government taking the lead "it would be instructive to look to the states for leadership."

All of the witnesses who testified stressed the importance of states coming together and working to establish rigorous common standards. The Honorable James Hunt, Jr., former Governor of North Carolina and chair of the James B. Hunt, Jr. Institute for Educational Leadership and Policy, stated the popular mantra of the day that our current "standards are all over the place, they are too vague and too many. We need to have a set of common standards for our country for all our schools. They need to be fewer, clearer, and higher."

Hunt testified that what we are really talking about today is not just education. It is also about jobs and our economy. He stated if states are going to create good jobs and lure businesses they need to have a highly educated workforce. The entire nation needs to make it a priority and "ensure all students graduate prepared to meet the challenges of living and working in a global economy," Mr. Hunt declared.

The committee showed concern for how states would develop and implement these standards. McKeon asked the witnesses how states would determine the best standards. He wondered why states couldn't just pick the state with the current highest standards and follow the leader. Ken James, Commissioner of Education in Arkansas, responded that there needs to be a deeper conversation between states than just picking the state with the highest standards. He said that just raising the standards to the highest current state standard really would not be high enough**.**

Rep. Jared Polis (D-CO) asked David Levin, co-founder of KIPP: Knowledge Is Power Program, if he thought any of the states that currently had a KIPP school had adequate state standards. Levin replied that state standards are a starting point, but that we need to go beyond just state standards and see what the top private and parochial schools are doing and also see what colleges are requiring their freshman to know.

The committee also debated the level of involvement Congress and the Federal government should have in education. Hunt advocated that Congress can play a pivotal role in promoting the implementation of common set of core standards, some of which are: ensure that the state development of common standards is based on research and evidence about what students need to know to be successful in college and work; sponsor the development of a

teacher designed curriculum that aligns with the standards; and support the design and implementation of high quality assessments.

Despite some dissent on how common standards should be achieved, and who should be leading the way, a consensus developed that we need to move towards more rigorous standards. Chairman Miller called the existing state standards "unacceptable" and "damaging." He said that "while some states have done a good job insisting on higher standards, others have set the bar far too low. The quality of a child's education shouldn't be left to the luck of the draw."

Testimony and webcast can be found at http://edworkforce.house.gov/hearings/full-committee/

EMERGING INFECTIOUS DISEASES: A THREAT TO AMERICA'S HEALTH

The National Intelligence Estimate reported newly emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases will pose a rising global health threat and will complicate U.S and global security over the next 20 years. These diseases will endanger U.S. citizens at home and abroad, threaten U.S armed forces deployed overseas, and exacerbate social and political instability in key countries and regions where the U.S has significant interest.

About a week before the H1N1 flu virus hit the headlines, on April 17th Trust for America's Health highlighted these issues at a congressional briefing on emerging infectious diseases and its threat to the U.S. economy, healthcare system, and security.

Trust for America's Health executive director Jeffrey Levi spoke of the growing consensus that the health of the U.S. is intertwined with the health of people around the globe. Levi referenced the *Germs Go Global: Why Emerging Infectious Diseases Are a Threat to America* report adding "worldwide, infectious diseases are the leading killer of children and adolescents, and are one of the leading causes of death for adults."

The *Germs Go Global* report published late last year found that at least 170,000 Americans die annually from newly emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases, a number that could increase dramatically during a severe flu pandemic or yet-unknown disease outbreak. Factors including globalization, increased antimicrobial (drug) resistance, and climate and weather changes are contributing to the increased threat.

Levi recalled major threats currently in the U.S. include emerging diseases, like the potential of a pandemic flu outbreak or another new diseases like severe acute respiratory syndrome also known as SARS. Additionally Levi stated that an estimated 3.2 million Americans have hepatitis C infections, costing the country an estimated $15 billion annually in health care costs, while an estimated 1.2 million Americans are concurrently living with HIV/AIDS, resulting in nearly 566,000 Americans deaths since 1981.

Levi recommended the U.S take leadership in four primary areas to aide in combating emerging infectious diseases:

- **Treatment:** While the U.S. government has invested significantly in treatments that could counter an intentional biological attack, new drugs to treat emerging diseases and new antibiotics to address growing antimicrobial resistance have received far less attention. The development of new, improved therapies to treat drug resistant bacterial infections, as well as influenza and other viruses, is essential.

- **Surveillance:** Every state and local health department should be part of a disease surveillance system that is interoperable among jurisdictions and agencies to ensure rapid information sharing. Health information technology (HIT) should be mobilized far more effectively to support public health surveillance. And, the U.S. needs to lead efforts to accurately assess the burden of infectious diseases in developing countries, detect the emergence of new microbial threats, and direct global prevention and control efforts.

- **Diagnostics:** New rapid diagnostic tests are needed across the spectrum of emerging infectious diseases. Improving point-of-care testing is particularly important.

- **Vaccines:** There are still no highly effective vaccines available to prevent three of the world's largest killers: HIV/AIDS, TB, and malaria. And, a large proportion of the world's children do not have access to currently available, highly effective vaccines.

Levi also called for Congress to enhance appropriations for Emerging Infectious Disease programs at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Department of Defense (DOD),

Agriculture, and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). He also urged the growth of funds for global surveillance efforts including increasing CDC's Global Disease Detection program to $56 million in FY 2010.

The CDC Global Disease Detection Program

Scott F. Dowell of the CDC's Division of Global Disease and Detection and Emergency Response provided an overview of the Global Disease Detection Program (GDD). The GDD serves as a protection to Americans and others throughout the world from emerging infectious disease by building capacity in outbreak detection and response in partnership with other countries and the World Health Organization (WHO).

Dowell called the GDD program one of the most visible programs for developing and strengthening global capacity to rapidly identify and effectively respond to emerging infections around the world. The central focus of the program is to establish and expand GDD Regional Centers in resource-constrained locations. Located at CDC headquarters in Atlanta, the GDD Operations Center provides an early warning about international health threats so that the CDC can respond rapidly to protect the health of the U.S. population and others throughout the world.

The GDD monitors and evaluates the programs capabilities and progress using a framework that includes quantitative and qualitative information related to outbreak response, pathogen discovery, training, surveillance and networking. In 2006, the GDD program implemented a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation framework which has helped to measure progress in building capacity to rapidly detect and contain emerging disease threats.

Dowell affirmed that the GDD program and other global health efforts have contributed significantly to building capacity of other countries to detect and respond to emerging diseases, including avian influenza. The *GDD Monitoring and Evaluation Report* provides a summary of the accomplishments of the program from 2006 to 2008 and represents the collective achievements of the GDD Regional Centers, other CDC programs and partners. This program has been tested in the current H1N1 flu outbreak.

TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF WOMEN'S HEALTH OFFICE CELEBRATED

On April 27, the Office on Women's Health and Women's Policy Inc. celebrated the publication of *Healthy Woman*, the ten-year anniversary of the www.womenshealth.gov website and call center, and the upcoming National Women's Health Week on Capitol Hill.

Rep. Gwen Moore (D-WI) Vice Chair of Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues and Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-FL), a member of the Women's Caucus and co-chair of the Young Women's Task Force welcomed the enthusiastic crowd of supporters.

Wasserman Schultz told the audience of her discovery of a lump in her breast back in December of 2007 while performing a self-examination. Wasserman Schultz said that after learning she was at greater risk for the cancer to spread because of her Ashkenazi Jewish descent, she elected to have a double mastectomy, as well as the removal of her ovaries. Wasserman Schultz spoke victoriously as she bid herself a breast cancer survivor and champion for women's health.

Attributing health education as key to survival, Wasserman Schultz now seeks the passage of a national campaign to educate the public, particularly young women and their doctors, about the need for a much earlier approach to breast cancer detection. Wasserman Schultz's EARLY Act legislation, (Education and Awareness Requires Learning Young) would direct the Department of Health and Human Services to begin educational campaigns in high schools and universities. It has a particular focus on ethnic minorities such as young African American and Jewish women, who are at higher genetic risk.

Department of Health and Human Services deputy assistant secretary for health Wanda K. Jones echoed the importance of education and early detection of all women's health issues and applauded Wasserman Schultz for her bravery and willingness to share her story. Jones charged "each day is a day we aim to make a difference by empowering women and girls around the country to understand and care for their health."

National Women's Health Week

The 10th annual National Women's Health Week begins May 10, 2009 and will be celebrated until May 16, 2009. National Women's Checkup Day will be Monday, May 11, 2009. The eight-week Woman Challenge, an online physical activity program, starts May 10, 2009.

National Women's Health Week is a weeklong health observance coordinated by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office on Women's Health (OWH). National Women's Health Week empowers women to make their health a top priority. With the theme "It's Your Time," the nationwide initiative encourages women to take simple steps for a longer, healthier, and happier life. During National Women's Health Week, communities, businesses, government, health organizations, and other groups work together to educate women about steps they can take to improve their physical and mental health and lower their risks of certain diseases. Important steps include:

- Getting at least 2 hours and 30 minutes of moderate physical activity, 1 hour and 15 minutes of vigorous physical activity, or a combination of both each week.
- Eating a nutritious diet.
- Visiting a health care professional for regular checkups and preventive screenings. Avoiding risky behaviors, like smoking and not wearing a seatbelt.
- Paying attention to mental health, including getting enough sleep and managing stress.

For more information about National Women's Health Week activities, visit the website at www.womenshealth.gov.

NIDA LAUNCHES DRUGS USE SCREENING TOOLS FOR PHYSICIANS

The National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) held a press conference and scientific meeting at the National Press Club on April 20 to launch NIDAMED a new initiative to provide the medical community with drug abuse resources to enhance patient care.

NIDA Director Nora D. Volkow, Acting Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy Ed Jurith, Sen. Carl Levin (D-MI), and Acting Surgeon General Steven K. Galson, were present to unveil the Institute's first comprehensive physicians' outreach initiative.

The NIDAMED screening application was adapted from the Alcohol, Smoking and Substance Involvement Screening Test (ASSIST), developed, validated, and published by the World Health Organization (WHO) as an effective screening tool for identifying substance use. NIDA-modified ASSIST tools are specifically designed to fit into today's busy clinical practices.

Specifically the new initiative includes an online screening tool, a companion quick reference guide, and a comprehensive resource guide for clinicians. The initiative stresses the importance of the patient-doctor relationship in identifying unhealthy behaviors before they evolve into life threatening conditions. A physician toolkit is also included as a patient-tested postcard that encourages patients to "Tell Your Doctors About All the Drugs You Use" and offers Web links for further information. Doctors are encouraged to put the cards in their waiting rooms to be read by patients before their appointments.

Volkow explained the NIDAMED tools were developed because doctors are in a unique position to discuss drug-taking behaviors with their patients before they lead to serious medical problems. "Enabling physicians to be the first line of defense against substance abuse and addiction, NIDAMED increases the awareness of the likely impact of substance abuse on a patient's overall health."

Doctors can access the new tools at http://www.drugabuse.gov by clicking on the NIDAMED icon.

INSTITUTE FOR POLICY RESEARCH AT NORTHWESTERN CELEBRATES 40TH ANNIVERSARY

Born in the aftermath of civil disorders that a national commission concluded was moving our nation toward "two societies one white, one black–separate and unequal" Northwestern University's Institute for Policy Research (IPR) (begun as the Center for Urban Affairs) celebrated its 40th anniversary on April 16-17. Led by current director Fay Lomax Cook, IPR continues its tradition begun by first director Raymond Mack, and his successors, Louis Massoti, Margaret Gordon, and Burton Weisbrod, of focusing on researching and addressing urban problems. The early multidisciplinary approach has now extended to working with the natural sciences in IPR's Cells to Society program, headed by Lindsay Chase-Lansdale, a center that examines health disparities.

The celebration centered around a two day conference that examined the "Dynamics of Inequality in America from 1968 to Today." The speakers included many IPR alumni who had moved on to other pastures. Christopher 'Sandy'

Jencks of Harvard gave the opening keynote address focusing on "Economic Inequality: How Much is Too Much?" Using data from the Luxembourg Income Study, Jencks compared inequality across developed nations. As has been noted in other places, inequality in incomes has grown enormously in the U.S. recently. Jencks suggested that "since 1980 money has had more influence in American politics than in the previous thirty years and that the American policies were enacted as if the rich could not be beaten." Jencks clearly believes that the consequences of this inequality have profound implications for the U.S. as a just and moral society.

Rebecca Blank of the Brookings Institution (and soon the Obama Administration, see other story) picked up on this theme in her Distinguished Policy Lecture that closed the conference. She described the consequences as a reduction in economic mobility, a decrease in well-being at the bottom, not only in economic terms, but including social effects such as health, crime, and domestic abuse, and a possible decrease in aggregated economic growth as more folks psychologically give up (although she acknowledged this last point is still under debate among economists).

By examining incomes per capita, Blank concluded that most people were better off in 2007 than they were in 1979 in absolute terms. However, the growth in income inequality has made them relatively worse off. The first conclusion, Blank suggested, could explain why there has been no major social unrest in these years. The second accounts for the issues raised during the rest of the conference.

The growth in absolute incomes arises, Blank contended, from increased human capital skills, mostly from increased education, and by technological change that has given rise to the high-skilled work force. Blank noted that the proportion of low-skilled workers in the work force continues to decline. However, as Larry Katz and Claudia Goldin have pointed out, since 1980 education achievement growth in America has stopped allowing other countries to surpass the U.S., for example, in the proportion of young people graduating from college.

Blank concluded her talk by discussing the current economic shocks and suggested that political choices can make a difference. Issues like climate change, tax policy, and others will decide whether the inequality continues or is reined in.

In between these two talks Larry Bobo of Harvard discussed the continuing importance of race, suggesting that we have not entered a "post-racial society." What has changed, according to Bobo, is the replacement of "Jim Crow racism," with a more subtle "Laissez-faire racism." Laissez -faire racists claim to support equality while maintaining negative, stereotypical beliefs about minorities. Bobo noted that racial stereotypes are alive and well, with young highly educated blacks increasingly believing that blacks lack the willpower to get ahead.

Ron Angel of the University of Texas at Austin, and a former COSSA seminar speaker, spoke about the marginality of the Mexican-American population. They remain, Angel noted, stuck in low wage "occupational ghettoes," mostly confined to construction, services, and farming. Angel also pointed out that their communities also lack social capital and wealth assets and there is a "pipeline problem" with high school dropout rates remaining "disastrous." Finally, Angel concluded, with a few exceptions, the Mexican-Americans lack "effective role models with social and political power."

In a panel on "The City and the Dynamics of Inequality," Wes Skogan of Northwestern examined research on crime and policing and Rob Sampson took a new look at the "Broken Windows" theory of George Kelling and James Q. Wilson, which claimed that by fixing vandalism such as broken windows cities could deter further petty crime and low-level anti-social behavior and prevent major crimes. For Skogan the research has had an important impact on how police departments operate. Sampson noted that in his continued examination of Chicago neighborhoods, "people move but social structures remain stable." Thus, certain areas get stigmatized as places of "perceived disorder." It is this social perception of disorder, Sampson concluded, that predicts later concentration of poverty and crime.

John Mollenkopf on the City University Graduate Center reviewed urban history and politics from the post- World War II era to the age of "change we can believe in." He categorized the period 1946-60 as the waning of the white ethnic industrial city, 1960-68 as the urban crisis, 1968-92 as the reaction to urban liberalism, 1992-2000 as ending welfare as we knew it; and 2001 to 2008 as the war on terror. He concluded that we are now in the "Obama Moment" with an urban president who will help revive urban America.

Charles Payne of the University of Chicago reviewed the urban education landscape describing the improvement in student achievement as measured by the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). Scores are up for fourth and eighth graders, but remain stuck for high school students. Discussing his work with the Consortium on Chicago School Research (whose director James Easton has been named head of the Institute of Education Sciences by President Obama), Payne noted that multidimensional thinking has replaced the "fetishizing" of single bullet interventions such as reducing class size, mayoral control, and charter schools. He also emphasized the notion of trust building among those in the schools and communities to assume a "collective responsibility" for teaching and learning.

Finally, Larry Bartels of Princeton discussed how politics and public policies have had profound effects on income distribution and inequality. He noted that the working class has seen a six- fold increase in their income growth rate under Democratic presidents. So why have Republicans won so many presidential elections in the last sixty years. Unlike Tom Frank's thesis in What's the Matter with Kansas, the working class, Bartels asserted, has not deserted the Democrats because of social issues. Rather, he demonstrated that everyone does better economically under Republican presidents in presidential election years and voters have myopia. So, for example, by 1984, the recession of 1982 was a distant memory.

Bartels also suggested that general attitudes in favor of equality do not transfer to specific policies. He used the large number of people who want to see the estate tax eliminated, despite the unequal effects of such a policy, as an example. He also criticized the voting behavior of Senators for their almost total non-responsiveness to low income constituents during recent history. He concluded by remarking that poor people need the ideological sympathy of the non-poor for the enactment of favorable public policies. The increasing social isolation of the classes in contemporary America, according to Bartels, makes this problematic.

NSF SOLICITS PROPOSALS ON SOCIAL-COMPUTATIONAL SYSTEMS

The National Science Foundation's (NSF) directorates in Social, Behavioral and Economics Sciences and Computer and Information Science and Engineering have joined together to produce a solicitation in Social-Computational Systems (SoCS).

According to NSF, the Social-Computational Systems (SoCS) program seeks to reveal new understanding about the properties that systems of people and computers together possess, and to develop a practical understanding of the purposeful design of systems to facilitate *socially intelligent computing*. By better characterizing, understanding, and eventually designing for desired behaviors arising from computationally mediated groups of people at all scales, new forms of knowledge creation, new models of computation, new forms of culture, and new types of interaction will result. Further, the investigation of such systems and their emergent behaviors and desired properties will inform the design of future systems.

The SoCS program will support research in socially intelligent computing arising from human-computer partnerships that range in scale from a single person and computer to an Internet-scale array of machines and people. The program seeks to create new knowledge about the capabilities these partnerships can demonstrate - new affordances and new emergent behaviors, as well as unanticipated consequences and fundamental limits. The program also seeks to foster new ideas that support even greater capabilities for socially intelligent computing, such as the design and development of systems reflecting explicit knowledge about people's cognitive and social abilities, new models of collective, social, and participatory computing, and new algorithms that leverage the specific abilities of massive numbers of human participants.

The SoCS program seeks to capitalize upon the collaborative knowledge and research methods of investigators in the computational and human sciences, recognizing that researchers in computer science and related disciplines often focus on the limits and capabilities of computation in isolation from the people that use computation, while researchers in the social sciences often focus on the use of technology or the capabilities of people with limited impact on how such knowledge can influence the design of new technologies. Proposals that reflect collaborative efforts spanning computational and human centered approaches and perspectives are specifically encouraged.

With anticipated funding of $15 million in FY 2010, NSF expects to make 20 to 35 awards with annual budgets up to $250,000 and durations of up to 3 years will be made in each annual competition. Typical awards will reflect collaborations between investigators in the computational and human sciences. Estimated program budgets, number of awards and award size/duration are subject to the availability of funds.

Proposals for the initial competition are due **September 21, 2009.**

The full solicitation is available at http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2009/nsf09559/nsf09559.pdf .

For further information contact: Vincent R. Brown, (703) 292-7305, email: vrbrown@nsf.gov or Frederick M. Kronz, (703) 292-7283, email: fkronz@nsf.gov.

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NEW ADDRESS
1701 K Street, NW, Suite 1150
Washington, D.C. 20006
Phone: (202) 842-3525; Fax: (202) 842-2788

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