



# WASHINGTON UPDATE

---

January 13, 2015 Volume 34, Issue 1

## **In This Issue**

### **FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

#### **FEATURED NEWS**

[COSSA Annual Meeting & Advocacy Day, March 9-10 -- Registration Now Open](#)

[114th Congress Gavels In; Committee Leaders Appointed](#)

#### **FEDERAL AGENCY & ADMINISTRATION NEWS**

[President's FY 2016 Budget Request to be Released February 2](#)

[SACHRP Seeks Nominations for New Members](#)

[Profile of New BEA Director in \*Amstat News\*](#)

#### **PUBLICATIONS & COMMUNITY EVENTS**

[NRC Roundtable Discusses Need for Improved Public Understanding of Social Science Research](#)

#### **FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

[NIJ: Forensic Science and Elder Abuse](#)

#### **COSSA MEMBER SPOTLIGHT**

[COSSA Welcomes New Members in 2015](#)

#### **EVENTS CALENDAR**

## **FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Happy 2015! COSSA is thrilled to kick-off the New Year with a brand new logo, look, and website. Check it out at [www.cossa.org](http://www.cossa.org), where you will also find the latest news and analysis of policy developments impacting social and behavioral science research, archives of the *COSSA Washington Update*, details on the upcoming COSSA Annual Meeting and Advocacy Day (more below), information on how to become a COSSA member, and much more.

We are looking forward to working with you in the year ahead to promote social and behavioral science research!

Wendy A. Naus  
COSSA Executive Director

## FEATURED NEWS

### COSSA Annual Meeting & Advocacy Day, March 9-10 -- Registration Now Open

Registration is now open for the [2015 COSSA Annual Meeting and Social and Behavioral Science Advocacy Day](#) scheduled for March 9-10, 2015 in Washington, DC. The meeting is open to the public; however, the advocacy day meetings are reserved for representatives of [COSSA member organizations and institutions](#).

The COSSA Annual Meeting brings together representatives from throughout the social and behavioral science community for a day of discussion on federal issues impacting social and behavioral science research. It provides an opportunity for COSSA members and others to engage directly with leaders of federal science agencies, Congressional staff, and colleagues from other associations and institutions.

Confirmed speakers to date include **France Córdoba, Director of the National Science Foundation, Francis Collins, Director of the National Institutes of Health, and Erin Fitzgerald, Director of the Department of Defense Minerva Research Initiative.**

NEW THIS YEAR -- Coinciding with the Annual Meeting on March 10 will be the first-ever Social and Behavioral Science Advocacy Day. This event offers COSSA members an opportunity to meet with their elected officials to discuss the importance of federal funding for social and behavioral science research.

Visit the [COSSA Annual Meeting page](#) for full details, including hotel information for out-of-town attendees. [Register today](#) (rates increase after February 10)!

## CONGRESSIONAL NEWS

### 114<sup>th</sup> Congress Gavels In; Committee Leaders Appointed

The 114<sup>th</sup> Congress was officially sworn in on January 6. The new Congress includes a freshman class of 52 Representatives (36 Republicans and 16 Democrats) and 12 Senators (11 Republicans and 1 Democrat), as well as a new GOP majority in the Senate. The party split now stands at 246 Republicans to 188 Democrats (and 1 vacancy) in the House and 54 Republicans, 44 Democrats, and 2 Independents in the Senate.

Several committee chairs and ranking members have been announced in recent days, including for committees and subcommittees overseeing funding and policy issues important to social and behavioral science research. These appointments will weigh heavily on the priorities and activities of the committees over the next year. A few notable appointments known so far:

#### House Appropriations Committee

Chairman: Hal Rogers (R-KY), reappointed ([majority press release](#))

Ranking Member: Nita Lowey (D-NY), reappointed

Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science

Chairman: John Culberson (R-TX)  
Ranking Member: Chaka Fattah (D-PA), reappointed

Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education  
Chairman: Tom Cole (R-OK)  
Ranking Member: Rosa DeLauro (D-CT), reappointed

#### **Senate Appropriations Committee**

Chairman: Thad Cochran (R-MS)  
Ranking Member: Barbara Mikulski (D-MD)

#### **Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee**

Chairman: John Thune (R-SD) ([majority press release](#))  
Ranking Member: Bill Nelson (D-FL)

Subcommittee on Science and Space  
Chairman: Ted Cruz (R-TX)

#### **House Science, Space and Technology Committee**

Chairman: Lamar Smith (R-TX), reappointed ([majority press release](#))  
Ranking Member: Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX), reappointed ([minority press release](#))

#### **House Energy and Commerce Committee**

Chairman: Fred Upton (R-MI), reappointed  
Ranking Member: Frank Pallone (D-NJ)

Subcommittee on Health  
Chairman: Joe Pitts (R-PA), reappointed

## **FEDERAL AGENCY & ADMINISTRATION NEWS**

### **President's FY 2016 Budget Request to Be Released February 2**

In an effort to promote a return of the annual appropriations process to "regular order," the White House announced that it will release its fiscal year (FY) 2016 budget request to Congress by the legally-mandated deadline of the first Monday in February (February 2). This will be the first time in five years that the request is submitted on time; the request was released several weeks late in previous years.

### **SACHRP Seeks Nominations for New Members**

The Secretary's Advisory Committee on Human Research Protections (SACHRP), the advisory body of the Office of Human Research Protections (OHRP), is seeking nominations to fill two spots that will become vacant in July 2015. The Committee provides guidance on matters "relating to the responsible conduct of research involving human subjects with particular emphasis on special populations such as neonates and children, prisoners, the decisionally impaired, pregnant women, embryos and fetuses, individuals and populations in international studies, populations in which there are individually identifiable samples, data or information; and investigator conflicts of interest."

Qualified candidates will possess expertise and experience in a field relevant to human subjects protection, including "public health and medicine, behavioral and social sciences, health administration, and biomedical ethics." Nominations should consist of a letter of nomination as well as the candidate's CV and contact information. They must be received by February 12, 2015. More information is available in the [Federal Register notice](#).

## **Public Comment Sought for Death Master File Certification Program**

On December 30, the National Technical Information Service (NTIS) published a [Notice of Proposed Rulemaking](#) in the Federal Register for the establishment of a certification program to "certify" persons to access Death Master File (DMF) information about an individual within three years of that individual's death. The new program would replace the temporary certification program in place since 2013. Comments are sought through January 29.

## **Profile of New BEA Director in *Amstat News***

Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) Director Brian Moyer was recently profiled in [Amstat News](#), the membership newsletter of the American Statistical Association (ASA). The piece gives readers a closer look at the new BEA head, whose tenure began in September 2014, as well as a deeper understanding of the agency itself.

## **PUBLICATIONS & COMMUNITY EVENTS**

### **NRC Roundtable Discusses Need for Improved Public Understanding of Social Science Research**

On January 8, the National Research Council (NRC) [Roundtable on the Application of Social and Behavioral Science Research](#) convened its first meeting. Chaired by Arthur "Skip" Lupia from the University of Michigan, the Roundtable brings together a diverse set of stakeholders in the social and behavioral science community to discuss ways to improve public understanding of social science research as well as the research community's understanding of the uses of research by various sectors, such as industry, military, or public health. Membership includes "those who create SBS research, those who use it, and those who know how to communicate about it." COSSA Executive Director Wendy Naus made a presentation to the Roundtable at the January meeting, setting the political context for social and behavioral science research, particularly in the Congress.

COSSA members including the American Educational Research Association, American Psychological Association, and the Institute for Social Research are sponsors of the Roundtable.

## **FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

### **NSF: Science of Learning Collaborative Networks**

The National Science Foundation (NSF) invites proposals for the creation of new research networks to address important questions in the Science of Learning (SL). The networks are intended to "foster the creation of new networks of investigators who will integrate scientific ideas across

disciplines and professions to conduct novel, exploratory research that has the potential to provide transformative advances in our understanding of learning."

The solicitation and NSF's new Science of Learning Program represent the next phase in NSF's support for SL after the recent sunset of its Science of Learning Centers (SLC) program, which launched in 2003. The goals of the SL Program are to "advance fundamental knowledge about learning through integrated research; connect the research to specific scientific, technological, educational, and workforce challenges; and enable research communities to capitalize on new opportunities and discoveries." Letters of intent must be received by February 6, 2015; full proposals are due on March 18, 2015. More information can be found on [NSF's website](#).

## **NIH: BD2K Biomedical Science Training Coordination Center**

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) is seeking applications for a coordination center designed to narrow the gap between the availability of biomedical big data and the ability of biomedical scientists to utilize such data accurately, effectively, and efficiently. The funding opportunity announcement, *NIH Big Data to Knowledge (BD2K) Biomedical Science Training Coordination Center (RFA-ES-15-004)*, responds to increasingly large, diverse, and complex biomedical datasets. These datasets tax conventional methods for sharing, managing, and analyzing data. Researchers' abilities to capitalize on biomedical big data science-based approaches are limited by poor data accessibility and interoperability, the lack of appropriate tools, and insufficient training.

The Big Data to Knowledge initiative is a trans-NIH initiative; the term "Biomedical Big Data" includes the "diverse digital objects which may have impact in basic, translational, clinical, social, behavioral, environmental, or informatics research questions."

Achieving the FOA's goals will require: (1) bringing together individuals involved in training and career development programs to network and share experiences; (2) engaging individuals developing open educational resources in meaningful dialogue to ensure that the resources they develop will be freely available and easy to access by the broader biomedical community; and (3) creating an online discovery index with personalized views of educational resources. Accordingly, the Biomedical Data Science Training Coordination Center (TCC) is expected to have: (1) developed a network of scientists involved in biomedical big data science, and (2) produced a discovery index that serves as a primary source for personalized access to publicly available biomedical data science educational resources. In addition, the TCC will sponsor and coordinate meetings, workshops, and rotations. It is also expected to develop technology and a web portal to communicate activity and provide personalized access to educational resources.

For more information see the [announcement](#).

## **NIH: BD2K MOOC on Data Management for Biomedical Big Data**

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) is seeking applications designed to develop an open, online educational course that complements and/or enhances the training of a workforce to meet the nation's biomedical, behavioral, and clinical research needs. The funding opportunity announcement (FOA), *NIH Big Data to Knowledge (BD2K) Initiative Research Education: Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) on Data Management (RFA-LM-15-001)*, focuses on curriculum or methods development.

The agency's Research Education Program (R25) funding mechanism supports educational activities

that complement other NIH formal training programs. In addition to complementing and enhancing the training of a workforce to meet the nation's biomedical, behavioral, and clinical research needs, the program's overarching goals also include: enhancing the diversity of the biomedical, behavioral, and clinical research workforce; helping to recruit individuals with specific specialty or disciplinary backgrounds; and fostering better understanding of biomedical, behavioral, and clinical research and its implications.

For more information and/or to apply see the [FOA](#).

## **NIJ: Forensic Science and Elder Abuse**

The National Institute of Justice (NIJ) has issued a solicitation for proposals on research and development in forensic science for criminal justice purposes. The agency is looking to fund research that will "(1) Increase the body of knowledge to guide and inform forensic science policy and practice or; (2) Result in the production of useful materials, devices, systems, or methods that have the potential for forensic application." Proposals examining human factors as they relate to specific disciplines within forensic science will be accepted. More information is available in the [full solicitation](#). The deadline for proposals is April 8, 2015.

The Institute is also seeking applications for research and evaluation related to the abuse, neglect, and exploitation of elderly individuals. NIJ is especially interested in proposals that will "(1) determine an estimate of the financial costs associated with elder abuse; (2) develop a taxonomy of case outcomes that can be used to define success from multiple perspectives; and (3) examine theoretical perspectives on elder abuse that move the field toward a better understanding of why perpetrators abuse, neglect, and/or exploit elderly individuals." See the [full solicitation](#) for more information. Proposals must be received by April 7, 2015.

## **COSSA MEMBER SPOTLIGHT**

### **COSSA Welcomes New Members in 2015**

COSSA welcomes two new members this year. The [Society for Personality and Social Psychology](#) (SPSP) has joined as COSSA's 19th Governing Member association. As a Governing Member, SPSP holds a seat on the COSSA Board of Directors. SPSP is the largest organization of social psychologists and personality psychologists, with more than 5,500 members.

COSSA is also pleased to welcome the [Owens Institute for Behavioral Research](#) (OIBR) at the University of Georgia as a new member in the Centers and Institutes category. OIBR strives to "catalyze high-impact interdisciplinary research" in the social and behavioral sciences across the university.

COSSA's full membership list can be viewed [here](#).

## **EVENTS CALENDAR**

[Society for Social Work and Research Annual Conference](#), New Orleans, LA, January 14-18, 2015

[Southern Political Science Association Annual Conference](#), New Orleans, LA, January 15-17, 2015

[Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Annual Meeting](#), Orlando, FL, March 3-7, 2015

[Association of Academic Survey Research Organizations Annual Meeting](#), New Brunswick, NJ, March 5-7, 2015

[COSSA Annual Meeting & Advocacy Day](#), Washington, DC, March 9-10, 2015

A list of COSSA members' annual meetings and other events can be found on the COSSA [webpage](#).

## **Consortium of Social Science Associations Members**

### **Governing Members**

American Anthropological Association  
American Association for Public Opinion Research  
American Economic Association  
American Educational Research Association  
American Historical Association  
American Political Science Association  
American Psychological Association  
American Society of Criminology  
American Sociological Association  
American Statistical Association  
Association of American Geographers  
Association of American Law Schools  
Law and Society Association  
Linguistic Society of America  
Midwest Political Science Association  
National Communication Association  
Population Association of America  
Society for Personality and Social Psychology  
Society for Research in Child Development

### **Membership Organizations**

Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences  
American Evaluation Association  
American Finance Association  
American Psychosomatic Society  
Association for Asian Studies  
Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management  
Association of Academic Survey Research Organizations  
Association of Research Libraries  
Council on Social Work Education  
Economic History Association  
History of Science Society  
Justice Research and Statistics Association  
Midwest Sociological Society  
National Association of Social Workers  
North American Regional Science Council  
Rural Sociological Society  
Social Science History Association  
Society for Research on Adolescence  
Society for Social Work and Research  
Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues  
Society of Behavioral Medicine  
Southern Political Science Association  
Southern Sociological Society  
Southwestern Social Science Association

### **Colleges and Universities**

Arizona State University  
Boston University  
Brown University  
Carnegie Mellon University  
Clark University  
Columbia University  
Cornell University  
Duke University  
George Mason University  
Georgetown University  
Harvard University  
Indiana University  
John Jay College of Criminal Justice, CUNY  
Johns Hopkins University  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Michigan State University  
New York University  
Northwestern University  
Pennsylvania State University  
Princeton University  
Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey  
Stanford University  
Stony Brook University, SUNY  
Texas A&M University  
The George Washington University  
The Ohio State University  
University of California, Berkeley  
University of California, Irvine  
University of California, Los Angeles  
University of California, San Diego  
University of California, Santa Barbara  
University of Chicago  
University of Illinois  
University of Iowa  
University of Maryland  
University of Michigan  
University of Minnesota  
University of Missouri  
University of Nebraska, Lincoln  
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill  
University of Oklahoma  
University of Pennsylvania  
University of South Carolina  
University of Texas, Austin  
University of Texas, San Antonio



## Centers and Institutes

American Academy of Arts and Sciences  
American Academy of Political and Social Science  
American Council of Learned Societies  
American Institutes for Research  
The Brookings Institution  
Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences  
Cornell Institute for Social and Economic Research  
Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan  
Institute for Social Science Research,  
University of Massachusetts, Amherst  
Institute for Women's Policy Research  
NORC at the University of Chicago  
Owens Institute for Behavioral Research, University of Georgia  
Population Reference Bureau  
RTI International  
Social Science Research Council  
Vera Institute of Justice

University of Virginia  
University of Washington  
University of Wisconsin, Madison  
Washington University in St. Louis  
West Virginia University  
Yale University

## COSSA

**Executive Director:** Wendy A. Naus

**Deputy Director:** Angela L. Sharpe

**Assistant Director for Public Affairs:** Julia Milton

Address all inquiries to COSSA at [newsletter@cozza.org](mailto:newsletter@cozza.org). Telephone: (202) 842-3525

*The Consortium of Social Science Associations (COSSA) is a nonprofit advocacy organization working to promote sustainable federal funding for social and behavioral science research and federal policies that positively impact the conduct of research.*

ISSN 0749-4394.