



WASHINGTON UPDATE

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In This Issue

FEATURED NEWS

[HOT TOPIC: Scientific Organizations Reflect on Building "Trust in Science"](#)

CONGRESSIONAL NEWS

[Senate Committee Advances NSF, Census, Justice Spending Bill](#)

[House Passes FY16 NSF, Census, Justice Spending Bill](#)

FEDERAL AGENCY & ADMINISTRATION NEWS

[Share Your Basic Research Success Stories](#)

[NIH Issues Notice on Enhancing Reproducibility](#)

[Members of Congress Address NIH Precision Medicine Working Group Workshop on Digital Health Data and Research Cohort Design](#)

[NIH Minority Health Institute Moves Ahead on Science Visioning of Health Disparities](#)

PUBLICATIONS & COMMUNITY EVENTS

[2015 Marks the 20th Anniversary of the Establishment of OBSSR](#)

[How People Learn II: The Science and Practice of Learning](#)

EVENTS CALENDAR

FEATURED NEWS

HOT TOPIC: Scientific Organizations Reflect on Building "Trust in Science"

COSSA's Julia Milton discusses recent events surrounding science communication and public trust in science. This spring, several major scientific organizations met to focus on these issues. HOT TOPICS are periodic, featured articles prepared by COSSA staff members offering insights into timely issues important to the social and behavioral science community.

[Read on](#) for Julia's analysis.

CONGRESSIONAL NEWS

Senate Committee Advances NSF, Census, Justice Spending Bill

On June 10, the Senate Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies (CJS) Appropriations

Subcommittee marked up its version of the fiscal year (FY) 2016 CJS bill. The full Senate Appropriations Committee followed suit on June 11, advancing the bill to the Senate floor. The CJS bill provides annual funding to the National Science Foundation (NSF), the National Institute of Justice (NIJ), and the Census Bureau and other federal statistical agencies. Like the [House bill](#) passed on June 4, the Senate CJS bill keeps within discretionary spending caps, translating to very small (if any) increases for agencies and programs of interest to the COSSA community. In fact, under the Senate proposal, NSF would see a fractional reduction below FY 2015; NIJ and the Bureau of Justice Statistics would be flat-funded; and the Census Bureau would be funded at levels much lower than the amounts requested for FY 2016.

Read COSSA's full analysis of the Senate CJS bill [here](#).

House Passes FY16 NSF, Census, Justice Spending Bill

After two days of debate and consideration of dozens of amendments, the House passed the fiscal year (FY) 2016 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies (CJS) appropriations bill this evening on June 4 by a vote of 242 to 183. Twelve Democrats voted in favor of the bill with 10 Republicans voting against.

As previously reported, this annual spending bill-which provides funding for the National Science Foundation (NSF), Department of Justice (DOJ) research programs, and the Census Bureau and other federal statistical agencies-includes very troubling provisions impacting social and behavioral science research (see [COSSA's analysis](#) for full details).

There were no amendments offered, positive or negative, to the NSF section of the bill, leaving the section unchanged from the version that was [approved](#) by the House Appropriations Committee on May 20.

[Read on](#) for more details.

FEDERAL AGENCY & ADMINISTRATION NEWS

Share Your Basic Research Success Stories

In a [June 2 blog post](#), Jo Handelsman, Associate Director for Science at the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP), urged the scientific community to share examples of basic research that has yielded unexpected, yet important insights. Handelsman states, "One of the hallmarks of science is that the path to knowledge is often indirect, and that in addition to rigorous investigation, discovery is often shaped by serendipity, human curiosity, and sometimes even heroism." Unfortunately, basic science, especially in the area of social science, continues to be attacked by some who fail to see the valuable ties between this research and future knowledge, applications, products, etc. You are encouraged to share your stories through social media using [#BasicResearch](#). Share your stories with COSSA as well using [@COSSADC](#) and [#Stand4Science](#).

NIH Issues Notice on Enhancing Reproducibility

On June 9, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Office of Extramural Research (OER) issued a Notice ([NOT-OD-15-103](#)) in an effort to clarify and revise application instructions and review criteria "to enhance reproducibility of research findings through increased scientific rigor and

transparency."

The release of the Notice is to raise awareness and begin "culture shifts in the scientific community." In a June 9 [blog post](#), Sally Rockey, NIH Deputy Director for Extramural Research, and Larry Tabak, Principal Deputy Director of NIH, explained, "These changes will prompt applicants and reviewers to consider issues, which-if ignored-may impede the transparency needed to reproduce key results and thereby slow scientific progress."

[Read on](#) for more details.

Members of Congress Address NIH Precision Medicine Working Group Workshop on Digital Health Data and Research Cohort Design

Senator Lamar Alexander (R-TN) and Representative Marsha Blackburn (R-TN) addressed a special session of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Advisory Council to the Director (ACD) Precision Medicine Initiative Working Group at the Public Workshop, *Digital Health Data and Research Cohort Design*, on the campus of Vanderbilt University on May 28-29.

The workshop is part of series by the ACD Working Group and builds on the April 28-29 workshop held on the NIH campus that focused on the development and implementation of a large national cohort, as well as identification of the unique scientific questions and opportunities of using such a large cohort. Two additional workshops are planned for July. The ACD Working Group is scheduled to submit its recommendations to the ACD at its September meeting, including a plan standing by to fund at the beginning of the fiscal year which begins October 1, should the Congress provide the necessary resources.

[Read on](#) for more details.

NIH Minority Health Institute Moves Ahead on Science Visioning of Health Disparities

At the June 9 meeting of National Advisory Council on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NACMHD), outgoing Acting Director Yvonne Maddox updated the Council on the Institute's Science Visioning process for health disparities research. NIH Deputy Director Larry Tabak will serve as the Institute's Acting Director until newly appointed director Eliseo Perez-Stable's arrival in September.

To initiate the process, the Institute released a request for information in April (see [Update, May 4, 2015](#)). Maddox reported that a trans-NIH Science Vision Advisory Group had been appointed and working groups are being established. The working groups will hold discussion forums around areas of science "to establish foundational concepts for advancing the science of health disparities research." The trans-NIH advisory group is populated by senior NIH leadership and led by Irene Dankwa-Mullan, Acting Deputy Director, NIMHD Division of Extramural Scientific Programs.

[Read on](#) for more details.

PUBLICATIONS & COMMUNITY EVENTS

2015 Marks the 20th Anniversary of the Establishment of OBSSR



Please Join Us

Wednesday, June 24, 2015

to **Celebrate the**

NIH Office of Behavioral & Social Sciences Research

Healthier Lives through NIH-Supported Behavioral & Social Sciences Research

Capitol Hill Exhibition & Reception

345 Cannon Caucus Room

Cannon House Office Building

5:30 pm - 7:30 pm

A widely attended event.



The past two decades have seen increasing recognition of the importance of behavioral and social factors in the prevention and treatment of disability and disease. OBSSR's mission is to stimulate behavioral and social sciences research throughout NIH and to integrate these areas of research more fully into the NIH health research enterprise, thereby improving our understanding, treatment, and prevention of disease.

Please join the [Coalition for the Advancement of Health through Behavioral and Social Sciences Research \(CAHT-BSSR\)](#) to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the NIH Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research with a [poster exhibition and reception](#) featuring research supported by NIH institutes, centers, and offices.

June 24, 2015

345 Cannon House Office Building

5:30 pm - 7:30 pm

[RSVP here](#) or via <http://goo.gl/forms/FhfiqCzCuk>.

For questions or more information contact: Angela Sharpe (alsharpe@cossa.org) or Patricia Kobor (pkobor@apa.org)

How People Learn II: The Science and Practice of Learning

On June 10, the National Research Council (NRC) Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education (DBASSE) Board on Behavioral, Cognitive, and Sensory Sciences (BCSS) held its inaugural meeting to update and extend the 2000 NRC report, [How People Learn](#).

The ad hoc committee is chaired by Cora Marrett, former Deputy Director of the National Science Foundation. Marrett observed that many things have changed since the original report was released and acknowledged the "phenomenal group of volunteers" tasked with updating the report.

[Read on](#) for more details.

EVENTS CALENDAR

[Making Changes: Learning from Social Science Research to Drive Behavior Change](#), Washington, DC, June 18, 2015

[OBSSR 20th Anniversary Celebration](#), Bethesda, MD, June 23-25, 2015

[OBSSR Capitol Hill Exhibition & Reception](#), Washington, DC, June 24, 2015

[American Psychological Association Annual Convention](#), Toronto, Canada, August 6-9, 2015

[Rural Sociological Society Annual Meeting](#), Madison, WI, August 6-9, 2015

[American Statistical Association Joint Statistical Meetings](#), Seattle, WA, August 8-13, 2015

[American Sociological Association Annual Meeting](#), Chicago, IL, August 22-25, 2015

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

COSSA members who have an upcoming event they would like to see listed in the Events Calendar and on our website should send an email to jmilton@coffa.org.

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Society for Personality and Social Psychology
Society for Research in Child Development

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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

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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.

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